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**Nadpřirozené bytosti v knihách o Harry Potterovi a jejich srovnání s
pohádkovými příběhy**

**Supernatural Creatures in the Harry Potter Series and Their
Comparison with Fairy Tale Stories**

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Poděkování

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Anotace

Tato bakalářská práce se zabývá vybranými nadpřirozenými bytostmi z příběhů o Harry Potterovi. Jedná se o draka, baziliška, fénixe, jednorožce, vodní lid, vlkodlaka, obra a čaroděje. Každá z těchto bytostí je nejprve popsána z pohledu autorky, poté je srovnávána se svou mytologickou předlohou a na závěr je porovnávána se stejnou bytostí z pohádky nebo z fantasy příběhu.

Důraz je kladen na pochopení hlavního významu vybrané bytosti, její funkci a fungování v příběhu. Cílem práce je určit shodné prvky, případně poukázat na rozdíly inspiračních zdrojů.

Abstract

This bachelor thesis deals with selected supernatural creatures of Harry Potter's series. It is primarily focused on a dragon, basilisk, phoenix, unicorn, merpeople, werewolf, giant and wizard. Each of these creatures is depicted from author's point of view at first, then it is compared with its original depiction and finally it draws a comparison between itself and its fairy tale's portrayal.

The emphasis is put on comprehension of the chosen creature's main meaning, its role and functioning through the story. The aim of this thesis is to find identical elements or alternatively to show differences of inspirational sources.

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1 INTRODUCTION

“Deeper meaning resides in the fairy tales told to me in my childhood than in any truth that is taught in life.” (Friedrich Schiller)

Joanne Rowling indisputably belongs to the most well-known authors of literature for children of the 21st century. Her series of wizard apprentice Harry Potter spread around the world and managed something that seemed impossible, it made children read again. Harry Potter ranked among best-selling and most popular books in the fantasy genre. Despite the fact that Harry Potter is intended for middle childhood and adolescent, the book gained attention of many adults. Joanne Rowling managed to wake up the interest of children in fairytales, because her story is full of various fairytale beings.

Fairytale is one of the most important stimulants of human socialization. Through the agency of fairytale children gain first ideas about the real world, about the good and the evil. Supernatural creatures take significant part in fairytales. Joanne Rowling excellently works with these creatures; it is evident that she knows their origin and meaning very well.

The aim of my work is to partially reveal what is hidden beyond the chosen creatures in the story of Harry Potter and what is their meaning in the story.

In the theoretical part I deal with general themes of mythology, fairytale and fantasy. In the practical part I analyse individual supernatural creature, which appears in the work of Joanne Rowling, and compare it with the former mythological model and the model of already existing fairytale or fantasy story.

1.1 Mythology

A myth can be interpreted as a symbolic narration. Myths are divided into two groups, classic myths, literary myths and political myths.

The classic myth is characterized as a nameless collective story which is handed over by oral tradition. It has a mythical function of explanation of the world's origin and narrates the stories which started long time ago. The classic myth means permanent truth. The structure of the classic myth is subdivided into natural sphere and supernatural sphere. The natural sphere is directed by Gods or demons. These myths

used symbols a lot. Their heroes are unique and remarkable. Another aspect is the existence of structural opposite (*right X left, day X night, Man X woman...*).

The literary myth is created by the author. The meaning of archetypes is strengthened.

The political myth has ideological meaning. It is an ideology, not narration. It has a function as an emotive idol.¹

1.2 Fairytale

A fairytale can be described as an amusing prosaic genre having its roots in folklore including the fantastic motif.

The magic world of fairytales does not work same way as the real world; it is fairer, often takes place in indeterminable surrounding and also the time is unknown. The fairytale is always closed and the good wins over the evil. There are some common wordings at the beginning and at the end of the fairytale (*Once upon a time, and they lived happily ever after*) as well as magic numbers are used (*three brothers, seven heads of a dragon*). The main motifs are magic subjects such as a magic mirror or a marvellous sword, incantations, ostensibly insolvable task and mysterious world (*magic castle, hell, space beyond the mirror*). There are many types of characters in fairytales such as supernatural ghosts, fates or devils, anthropomorphic animals or things (*golden fish, moons*), comical distorted persons (*giants or dwarves*), typified by constant symbol (*Little Red Riding Hood*) and the last but most important type is the division of the good ones and bad ones.

There are two groups of fairytales - the folktale and the author's tale.

The folktale's storylines are inspired by myths and initiation rituals which were connected with painful trial of resistance. These folktales were not for children. The folktales about animals are today known as fables. A legendary tale that narrates about biblical characters is another type of the folktale. The last type of the folktale is a novelistic tale.

The author's tale is much younger than the folktale and is identified as children's fairytale. There are more realistic and actual topics and the magic motifs are part of everyday life. The composition is more difficult and looser than the folktale's. The

¹ MOCNÁ D., 2004, p. 400-402

author's tale can be also divided into illusion tale, animal tale, symbolical tale, anti-fairytale, parody tale, nonsense tale, movie tale and series tale.²

1.3 Fantasy

Fantasy finds its inspiration in mythology and medieval romance. It is an opposite of science fiction but both terms belong to the group that is called Speculative fiction.

Specific elements of emotionality, fairytale-motifs, pseudo-history, magic and mysticism are characteristic for fantasy.

Main characters can be divided into dominant main hero or group of heroes, a companion of the hero, a hero's mentor, hero's opponent, the object of desire and a fantastic creature.

The main hero enters into a different dimension. There are three different worlds – the imaginary world, the parallel world or pseudo-historical world.

During the story the hero undergoes many difficulties – attainment of the main goal, his attitude to world is changing.

Many references to fairytales and myths are found in fantasy literature. Fantasy is classified as popular and Belles-lettres literature genre. There are three types of fantasy. The first one is called an epic fantasy and is inspired by medieval legends. The second one is named heroic fantasy and is based on heroic myths and the last one is known as a science fantasy that stands on boundary of classic fantasy and science fiction.³

² MOCNÁ, D., 2004, p. 472-473

³ MOCNÁ, D., 2004 p.187-189

2 SUPERNATURAL CREATURES

2.1 DRAGON

2.1.1 Dragons in HP Stories

Dragons are creatures that appear in HP series most often. The very first dragon which Harry meets is Norbert – the Norwegian Ridgeback Dragon. Hagrid won the egg of this dragon in a pub, but finally Harry found out that the stranger who gave Hagrid the egg was Voldemort. The Norwegian Ridgeback belongs to the rare type of dragons. He is similar to Hungarian Horntail Dragon. It has black scales on its body. Its teeth are poisonous and it learns spit the fire earlier than other dragons (TFBaWtFT*, 2001). Harry, Ron and Hermione were witnesses of dragon's hatching: *"The egg was lying on the table. There were deep cracks in it. Something was moving inside; a funny clicking noise was coming from it. They all drew their chairs up to the table and watched with bated breath. All at once there was a scraping noise and the egg split open. The baby dragon flopped onto the table. It wasn't exactly pretty; Harry thought it looked like a crumpled, black umbrella. Its spiny wings were huge compared to its skinny jet body, it had a long snout with wide nostrils, the stubs of horns and bulging, orange eyes. It sneezed. A couple of sparks flew out of its snout."*⁴

Hagrid named his dragon Norbert.

More dragons appear in the *Goblet of Fire*. The participants of the Triwizard tournament must circumvent the dragon and gain its golden egg. Harry drew the Hungarian Horntail Dragon. This dragon is described as "the most dangerous dragon of all. Its body is covered by black scales, it has yellow eyes, bronze-golden horns and its tail is ended by sharp spine (TFBaWtFT, 2001)."

Fleur Delacour picked the Common Welsh Green Dragon. This type is the least dangerous of all dragons. It prefers sheep as food and it avoids people. These dragons live in mountains areas. The Welsh green dragon is easily recognized from the others thanks to its melodic yelling. (TFBaWtFT, 2001).

Victor Krum drew the Chinese Fireball Dragon. This dragon is also known as a "Lion Dragon". Its body is covered by purple scales and its head is embellished by many

⁴ ROWLING, J. K., *The Philosopher's Stone*, 2010, p171

***The Fantastic Beast and Where to Find Them** – The additional book written by J. K. Rowling. This book was written for Harry Potter readers and fans. There are many supernatural creatures which are described by Rowling and the descriptions are put by pictures and notes of Harry, Ron and Hermione. Although the book was written by Rowling, the name of the author is Newt Scamander.

golden horns. His flames are mushroom-shaped. Chinese Fireball females are larger than males. It likes pigs and humans for food (TFBaWtFT, 2001).

The Swedish Short-Snout Dragon was chosen by Cedrik Diggory. The skin of this dragon, which is silver-blue coloured, is highly demanded goods because it is used for making of protective gloves and shields. It also lives in mountains (TFBaWtFT, 2001).

Harry's last meeting with dragon is also probably the most adventurous. When Harry, Ron and Hermione enter the Gringotts, they found the partially blind dragon in the dungeons.

*"A gigantic dragon was tethered to the ground in front of them, barring access to four or five of the deepest vaults in the place. The beast's scales had turned pale and flaky during its long incarceration under the ground, its eyes were milkily pink; both rear legs bore heavy cuffs from which chains led to enormous pegs driven deep into the rocky floor. Its great spiked wings, folded close to its body, would have filled the chamber if it spread them, and when it turned its ugly head toward them, it roared with a noise that made the rock tremble, opened its mouth, and spat a jet of fire that sent them running back up the passageway."*⁵ Gringotts used dragons for guarding the most important safes. But they did not behave well towards those dragons. It is not mentioned what kind of dragon this one was.

Harry and his friends used this dragon for escaping from Gringotts.

Dragon is the one of the most widespread magic creatures. Stories about dragons are very popular from Great Britain to the eastern coast of China, from the Scandinavian Peninsula to the south of Europe.

Many modification of this creature exist among different cultures. There is one-headed dragon and even a hundred-headed dragon. Antic dragons looked more like snakes and were without wings; their wings were added in the middle ages. Many of them shoot the fire, but some dragons even can swim. General view of dragons is different depending on the culture. Dragon as a symbol of evil and destruction is known in Europe. In contrast, in China dragons symbolise the good and luck.

Dragons can be divided into two groups. The European Dragons and The Asian Dragons.

⁵ ROWLING, J. K., The Deathly Hallows, 2010, p.432

2.1.2 Ancient Dragons

2.1.2.1 European Dragons

2.1.2.1.1 Ancient Greek dragons

The Greek term “drákōn” means dragon as well as snake. As a result, Greek legends tell the stories about both winged and wingless dragons.

There are some myths of dragons in Greek legends. Dragon Ladon had one hundred heads and he protected golden apples which were given to Hera by Gaia. Ladon was defeated by Heracles and later Gaia converted her dragon into the constellation that is known as “Draco”.

Another Greek dragon, called Python, guarded the golden wool. It is well known, that ancient Gods used *Teams of dragons*⁶. Dragons were often associated with Gods Ares, Artemisia and Dionysus.

Few notes of dragons are found in Herodotus’ treatise. These dragons are winged and fly from Arabia to Egypt every spring.

Rowling also use the motif of a dragon as a guardian of valuable treasures. In the *Goblet of Fire* dragons guard their golden eggs, in the *Deathly Hallows* Gringotts use dragons in their dungeons for guarding the most valuable safes. Rowling also uses other creatures as protectors such as Fluffy, which is three-headed dog. Fluffy guarded the entrance to the chamber where the Philosopher’s stone was hidden. In another ancient Greek story, three-headed dog Cerberus protected the gate of the Underworld.

2.1.2.1.2 Ancient Roman Dragons

Gaius Plinius Secundus mentions dragons in his work “*Historia Naturalis*“. He precisely describes the chase of dragon on an elephant. In another chapter Plinius writes about giant snakes which are wingless.

2.1.2.1.3 Scandinavian and British dragons

In Norwegian folklore there is a dragon called Fafnir, which was son of dwarf’s king. Fafnir was a human being but when he killed his father, he changed into dragon. Fafnir was defeated by Reginoh, the servant of Fafnir’s brother Suguard. Fafnir’s dragon body

⁶ Translation – Dračí spřežení

was covered by massive scales. He has sharp spines on his tail and his fiery breath could make water to boil during a few seconds.

Even legendary Beowulf fought with dragon known as Fire-Drake. Beowulf won but shortly after he passed away because of the wounds caused by the dragon. There is very brief description of this dragon, it is only known that it was over fifty paces long and looked more like snake. It is interesting that Beowulf protected himself by shield which was decorated by engraved dragon.

The legend of Knucker, the horrifying water dragon, comes from West Sussex. This dragon lived in bottomless lake and was slain by poor local boy Jimmy.

The national flag of Wales, that is believed to be the oldest flag in the world, depicts a red dragon.

The Norwegian Ridgeback Dragon described by Rowling is also immensely cruel creature. Its body is covered by massive scales and its tail has sharp spine too. Even its fiery breath is as powerful as Fafnir's.

2.1.2.1.4 Slavic dragons

The legend of dragon Gorynytch is extended in Russia and Ukraine. This dragon had three heads and seven tails. He could walk on his hind legs and Russians believed that he was the cause of the eclipses of Sun and Moon.

Another dragon lived in Poland in 700 AD. This dragon was nameless, but very cruel. A poor shoemaker's apprentice known as Krak deceived the dragon when he fed it by sheep stuffed of sulphur and peppery spice. This mixture devastated dragon's stomach. The dragon tried to drink water from Visla, but he didn't save his life.

Kind dragons were not widespread among Slavic culture, but a few existed. For example, the dragon which lived in Ljubljana and he protected the city. As a result, the dragon is portrayed on the emblem of Ljubljana.

2.1.2.1.5 Dragons in the Bible

There are some mentions of dragon in the Bible. In the Old Testament prophet Daniel defeated the dragon when he had fed it with dumplings which were made of resin, fat and hair. The New Testament also includes reference to dragons. It is written that dragons symbolise The Devil. Many comments on dragons occur in the Book of Revelation. The dragon is described here as a merciless and cruel ruler.

Dragons in the *Goblet of Fire* can be understood the same way as biblical dragons. They are merciless and cruel. They protect their eggs and it is obvious that they do not hesitate to kill any of the participants of the tournament. The main aim of participants is to circumvent the dragon and gain its egg.

2.1.2.1.6 Mesopotamian Dragons

A picture of dragon that was totally different from tradition Greek representation was found during archaeological excavations in Mesopotamia. Mesopotamian dragon is four-legged and armoured by scales. Its neck is very long in contrast to its head which is quite small. On its head there is placed a comb with a horn. A cloven tongue protrudes from its mouth. Dragon's tail is long and is equipped by sting. Another difference can be seen on its legs which are more similar to lions and hind legs looks more like eagle's claws. This dragon does not have wings.

2.1.2.1.7 Dragons of Persia

Persian God of Darkness created the dragon and named it Azi Dahaka. Azi Gahaka had three heads, three mouth, six large eyes and it was extremely strong. Two snakes protruded from the dragon's back and they ate only human brains. This dragon was slain by Persian hero Feridun.

2.1.2.2 Asian dragons

2.1.2.2.1 Chinese dragons

Chinese tradition characterise dragons utterly different than the European one. Dragons there symbolise wholesomeness and together with phoenix they became the symbols of emperor and empress. This relationship may represent harmony between married couple. According to legends Chinese dragons lived in clouds because the clouds of strange shapes, especially during the sunset, evoked various pictures of creatures of many shapes and colours in minds of Chinese. But these dragons are often described as giant snakes which had horns on their heads. They had four legs and very small wings. This flying type of dragon is closely connected with gods and they protect the world, but the most honoured Yellow dragon of which paws were embellish by five claws became the symbol of the emperor and his family and besides it was pictured on the national flag. Another type, the water dragon, was believed to be the helper of farmers

because it could control weather, primarily rain. Every dragon was covered by 117 scales and they could lay only one egg that was hatching one thousand years.

Parenthetically the Chinese date inscription is much older than the European and in addition to that the world's inception began in the first era called the Era of Five Dragons.

Dragons can be invisible and on the top of that they can change their shape into another animal.

Chinese used the dragon bones and dragon teeth for curing heart and kidneys illnesses as well as for treatment of tuberculosis and fever.

Fucang-lung belongs to the group of underworld dragons. It guards treasures, gemstones and precious metals. Its most precious treasure is a pearl that it hides under its chin. This pearl is extremely important because inside the pearl there is hidden all the power and wisdom of the dragon. Fucang-lung is kind-hearted. When it leaves the underground, the weather on the surface is very hot.

Another dragon, Shen-lung is the spiritual type of dragon and it can master weather, especially storms and rain. Chinese believed that when Shen-lung was ill the rain smelled like fish.

*The linguist Michael Carr analyzed over 100 ancient dragon names which can be found in Chinese classic texts.*⁷

2.1.2.2.2 Japanese Dragons

Japanese dragons are very similar to their Chinese relatives. Dragons in Japan became the symbol of absolute rulers. Many Japanese coins are embellished by portrait of dragon. Not only Chinese dragons are connected with the emperor, but also Japanese dragons achieved the same honour. However Japanese dragons have only three claws on their paws in contradiction to Chinese ones. These dragons are wingless, but the shape of their bodies is the same as Chinese dragons. The majority of Japanese dragons belong to the water type.

Despite the fact that almost all Asian dragons are kind, in Japanese mythology there are some cruel dragons such as Yamata no Orochi. This dragon was eight-headed with eight tails and its sinuous body was covered by eight valleys and eight hills. Orochi was slain by Susanoo, the God of seas and storms. First of all Susanoo got it drunk and secondly

⁷ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chinese_dragon

he shredded its body. Susanoo found a highly valued sword called Kusanagi-no-Tsurugi in one of the dragon's tail.

It is well known that mediaeval Japanese fire-fighters got tattoo pictures of dragons on their bodies because they believed that these dragons would protect them during extinguishing of a fire.

2.1.3 Other territories

Legends of dragons are widespread around the whole world. Some stories come even from Solomon Islands near the Australian coast. Local dragon Hatuibwari is believed to be the creator of the world. It is described as half a man and half a snake. This being at first created man and woman, and then continued with animals, plants and food. But dragons like that one which created world can be easily found in other cultures such as Maoris, Aztecs and Babylonian.

2.1.4 Medieval Dragons

Stories about Dragons of middle Ages are most spread in Europe. These dragons, in contrast to their ancient forerunners, have wings and they were named as "Lindwurm" in German, but the term "Dragon" is still in use.

Wyverns were dragons which lived in Herefordshire in Great Britain. Wyvern's body looked like snake and was protected by strong scales; it was winged, had only two legs or sometimes none and at the end of its tail there was a spine. Its teeth were venomous as well as their breath. It was believed that the wyverns were the cause of Black Death. Wyverns are often depicted on medieval coats of arms.

One Wyvern was raised by girl Maud. Despite the fact that the dragon ate human meat, it had never hurt Maud. But the dragon was slain by Garston. Maud stayed with her friend until it breathed its last in her arms.

Medieval Germanic dragons had many heads and they were named whereas Slavonic did not do that. On the contrary, there are some mentions, even from Czech sources, how to breed your own dragon. Dragon could be raised from a lizard that was called "*Snake's Doll*"⁸ and it had to be fed by human blood.

Medieval people believed that dragons occurred in Switzerland the most.

⁸ Translation - Hadí panenka

Rowling's dragons can be classified as a mixture of ancient and medieval dragons. Her dragons are large in size, which even corresponds with contemporary modern description of dragons. Their bodies are protected by massive scales of various colours and all of them are winged. Their tails often contain poisonous sting as well as their teeth. They can spit the fire. But Rowling did not use the motif of more-headed dragons; her dragons are only one-headed.

It is obvious that she drew the inspiration only from European tradition, because her dragons are extremely cruel and violent creatures.

2.1.5 Fairytale Dragon

The Dragon's Strength - The Story of the Youngest Prince Who Killed the Spar is the tradition European Fairytale. This fairy tale's dragon is depicted as the horrible scaly monster. It is also possessed of speaking ability. This dragon hides its heart inside of many animals (dragon, boar, pigeon and sparrow) – this fit the description of Asian dragons which protect their most precious treasures and it is possible that this motif of a hidden treasure is applied to the dragon from the Goblet of Fire, which protected the golden egg or the blind dragon from *The Deathly Hallows*.

The Italian fairytale known as *The Dragon* describes this creature from a different point of view. There is quite different depiction of the dragon - a dragon, which tears with his claws, breaks to pieces with his head, crushes with his tail, crunches with his teeth, poisons with his eyes, and kills with his breath. This dragon is closely connected with the evil Queen. If one of them dies the second one dies too. But the human being can be brought back to life by rubbing his or her body with the dragon's blood.

The fairytale Batcha and the Dragon: The Story of a Shepherd Who Slept all Winter belongs to the group of Czechoslovakian Fairytales. Depiction of a Slavic fairy tale dragon is a bit different - With a great hissing whistling sound a monster dragon flew out of the cavern. It was the old king serpent whose seven years were up and who was now become a flying dragon. From his huge mouth he breathed out fire and smoke. With his long tail he swished right and left among the forest trees and these snapped and broke like little twigs.

This dragon is already winged and it can spit the fire. It is a cruel beast too and it is defeated by God.

The dragon in the Russian fairytale *Sila Tsarevich and Ivashka with the White Smock* is depicted as an evil creature which obsessed the princess. This dragon is six-headed and it can fly. It was destroyed by fire.

The fairytale of *The Four Dragons* belongs to the Chinese legends. It is a story of four dragons which decided to help people despite the fact that their Jade Emperor refused to help them. They were punished for their decision. These dragons behave kind and they sympathize with poor people. After their incarceration dragons want to stay with people and they transform their bodies into rivers.

The depiction of a dragon occurs even in the Native American fairy tales. *The Boy and the Dragon* fairytale describe the dragon as a cruel beast which feeds on women and children. This dragon masters the shape-shifting. It often takes a shape of a human being, especially a handsome man. At the end of the tale it also takes a shape of a snake. The young boy who decided to save his tribe from the dragon must undergo some special quests. Only if he carries out these quests to a hair, he will defeat the dragon.

J.R.R. Tolkien wrote about dragons in the novel *Silmarillion*. His dragons were created by Melkor. There were two races, the first one included dragons which had two legs and were wingless and the second group of dragons had wings. These dragons were very dangerous. These dragons were subdivided into many other groups such as fire or ice dragons. They were extremely large and their bodies were protected by strong scales. These creatures avoided water and sunshine a wide berth. They used their sharp teeth and claws for fight. Their blood was black and venomous. Dragons' senses of sight, hearing and smell were incredibly intense. Dragons could live for long time and as a result of that they were really worldly-wise. Their weakness was that they acted vaingloriously and ambitiously. They lived in caves and there they collected treasures. They loved riddles and conundrums. According to Tolkien the dragon can be defeated only by answering to his question correctly. The answer to this question is the name of the dragon. The very last strongest dragon appears in *The Hobbit*. Its name was Smaug the Golden and was slain by Bard Bowman, when Bilbo found the weakness of Smaug.

Christopher Paolini presents his view on dragons in his *Inheritance Cycle*. The dragon called Saphira is depicted as four-legged, winged blue dragon. Her body is covered by scales. Her nature is different than any other dragons, she likes her master Eragon and

she love stroking. She is more similar to a pet than to a wild beast. She communicates with Eragon by using telepathy. This dragon is quite wise. There are hybrids known as Fanghurs.

Rowling's depiction of dragon is similar to European and North American tradition. These dragons are very dangerous and cruel. They often guard a treasure and this theme can be found in the Rowlings' book GoF. Chinese tradition is often different, because Chinese dragons are kind to human. Modern fantasy frequently portrays the dragon like Rowling, but sometimes the dragon is characterized as a friendly creature, nonetheless it is very rare.

2.2 BASILISK

2.2.1 Basilisk in HP Series

“Of the many fearsome beasts and monsters that roam our land, there is none more curious or more deadly than the Basilisk, known also as the King of Serpents. This snake, which may reach gigantic size and live many hundreds of years, is born from a chicken's egg, hatched beneath a toad. Its methods of killing are most wondrous, for aside from its deadly and venomous fangs, the Basilisk has a murderous stare, and all who are fixed with the beam of its eye shall suffer instant death. Spiders flee before the Basilisk, for it is their mortal enemy, and the Basilisk flees only from the crowing of the rooster, which is fatal to it.”⁹

The basilisk is probably the worst of the creatures that ever hanged around the Hogwarts. Only Hermione recognized that the beast is the basilisk. The basilisk is a snake and that is the reason why only a Parselmouth can command it to do something and that is why Harry is the only one who can hear it.

The basilisk's sight is deadly, but when you do not look in its eyes straight, you will turn into the stone. This charm can be broken only by decoction of mandrakes.

The basilisk's venom belongs to the most powerful magic poisons and only tears of the phoenix are the antidote for this venom. This venom keeps its effects for very long time even if the basilisk is dead. It is one of magic artefacts that can destroy horcruxes.

⁹ Rowling, J. K., The Chamber of Secrets, 2010, p.215

According to Rowling's book TFBaWtFT (2001) the very first basilisk was bred by Greek dark wizard and Parselmouth Herpo the Foul. It is said that the basilisk had to be hatched beneath a toad from the chicken egg. "*The Basilisk is a brilliant green serpent that may reach up to fifty feet in length.*" There are some differences between male and female - "*The male has a scarlet plume upon its head.*" The basilisk can live for a very long time; it can reach over 900 years. Breeding of basilisks is forbidden.

2.2.2 European Basilisk

2.2.2.1 Ancient Greek and Roman Basilisk

The name of the basilisk comes from the Greek word "basiliskos" that means "little king".

First historical mentions about the basilisk can be found in the notes called "Naturalis Historia" written by Pliny the Elder around 79 AD. He describes the basilisk as a snake that has a small white spot on its head. This spot is thought to be as a king's crown. The basilisk reputedly lives in the North-African Roman province of Cyrene.

Ancient Romans thought that the basilisk did not crawl but it was able to move uprightly. It could scare other snakes and destroy rock by its breath. There was only one way of killing the basilisk. A weasel was thrown into the basilisk burrow and the weasel's smell killed the basilisk.

The basilisk is presented as a king of snakes with a spot on its forehead which symbolises a king's crown. Rowling was probably inspired by this tradition because her basilisk is also called as the King of Serpents and upon its head there is a scarlet plume that can be served as a crown too.

2.2.2.2 The use of mirrors

Alexander the Great believed that his soldiers had been murdered by the basilisk so he decided to make for them large mirror shields because he knew that the basilisk could not stand a glance on itself.

Rowling also used the theme of mirrors as protection against the basilisk. Who watch the basilisk in the mirror's reflection, he turns into the stone. In Antique legends there is another creature that can charm humans into the stone by a gaze – Medusa. The power to turn people into the stone comes from eyes of both creatures.

2.2.2.3 Christian Tradition

Some references about the basilisk are also in the Bible in chapters of Jeremiah and Isaiah.

Jeremiah 8:17 *For, behold, I will send serpents, basilisks, among you, which will not be charmed; and they shall bite you, saith the LORD*¹⁰. Isaiah 14:29 *Rejoice not, O Philistia, all of thee, because the rod that smote thee is broken: for out of the serpent's root shall come forth a basilisk, and his fruit shall be a fiery flying serpent.*¹¹ Isaiah 59:5 – *Isaiah explains behaving of people who has turned away from God and consequences - They hatch basilisks' eggs, and weave the spider's web: he that eateth of their eggs dieth, and that which is crushed breaketh out into a viper.*¹² The basilisk symbolises dangerous enemies.

The Christian metaphor of basilisk is as dangerous and lethal as Rowling's tangible basilisk.

2.2.3 The Basilisk of the middle Ages

Medieval basilisk changed its appearance, it looked more like dragon. This basilisk had wings, a head of cock with a crest, snake's neck, a tail of a reptile and bird claws on its feet. It hatched from the egg that was hatched by black cock. But this black cock was firstly hen which reached seven years. The egg was without a yolk and it had to be hatched into the dunghill at the day of Sirius.

The visual side of the medieval basilisk does not correspond with Rowling description, but the way of laying the egg by a cock is almost the same. Rowling basilisk's egg is laid by a chicken.

2.2.4 Oriental basilisk

Oriental nations believe that the basilisk hatched from the eggs which were impregnated by snake or turtle.

This tradition is very similar to Rowling's idea of the basilisk's egg which was hatched by a toad.

2.2.5 The ways of killing the basilisk

An herb called "*Common Rue*" also known as Herb-of-Grace was another way how to kill the basilisk (Augusta, Pejml, 1947).

¹⁰ http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/1611_Jeremiah-8-17/

¹¹ http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/1611_Isaiah-14-29/

¹² http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/1611_Isaiah-59-5/

The basilisk is scared of cock. Crowing of cock paralyzes it and the basilisk dies. That is the reason why travellers took on their journeys cocks with.

This theme of killing the basilisk by using the cock also appears in the *Chamber of Secrets*. There is a mention that somebody killed all Hagrid's cocks in the book.

It is most likely that Rowling was inspired by Ancient basilisk, her basilisk was hatched by roaster, it was afraid of roaster's crowing and its gaze was deadly too.

But the basilisk as a real animal still exists. Its name is Plumed Basilisk. It is obvious from its name that Rowling should have been inspired by this animal too, because she mentions that the basilisk living in Hogwarts' dungeons has a plum on its forehead. The Plumed Basilisk has many crests upon its body and head and it can remind the shape of a crown.

2.2.6 Fairytale Basilisk

The Basilisk belongs to the group of creatures with the rarest occurrence among fairy tales.

This creature is more frequent in fantasy stories. The second series of Percy Jackson, named Heroes of Olympus written by Rick Riordan, include the book *The Son of Neptune*. One of the enemies, Gigante Polybotes, is armed by Basilisks which live on his head. He gave his three basilisks to Goddess Iris to protect her house. These basilisks can be defeated only by weasels. The basilisk is named as a *little crown* in the story as well. *"The snake rose up on its tail. It hissed, and expanded the collar of white spikes around its neck. Little crown, Frank remembered. That's what "basilisk" meant. He had thought basilisks were huge dragon like monsters that could petrify you with their eyes. Somehow the real basilisk was even more terrible. As tiny as it was, this extra-small package of fire, poison, and evil would be much harder to kill than a large, bulky lizard. Frank had seen how fast it could move. The monster fixed its pale yellow eyes on Frank."*¹³

Basilisk appears in a Polish fairy tale *The Eagles*. The king had twelve sons and one daughter. The queen passed away and the king married another woman. However this woman was a witch and she enchanted king's son into eagles and his daughter into a dove. An old man was a witness of this magic and the evil witch made him disappear she changed into a basilisk. Her sight killed all people in the castle. She even murdered

¹³ RIORDAN, R. *The Son of Neptune*, 2011, p. 80

her only son. The princess was changed back by an old man. She was given advice by him and she went at the end of the world, where she met the Death. She saved her brothers and they returned back home where they found the basilisk. They used the mirror to kill it.

There is another special creature in this fairy tale. It is a bird which can be linked to the phoenix. This bird looks like *a gigantic bird, with rainbow wings, a bright sparkling crest, and peacock's eyes all over his body, a golden tail, and silvery breast.*¹⁴. The bird can carry heavy loads and his breath heals the wounds.

The Basilisk is not such a common creature, its occurrence is probably the rarest from all the chosen creatures. The basilisk in Percy Jackson story is the same lethal as Rowling's basilisk, but it can be defeated only by a weasel instead of Rowling's use of the rooster.

The Polish fairy tale *The Eagles* copes with the similar topic as Rowling's *Chamber of Secrets*. There are two mighty creatures, the lethal giant snake and the bird with healing powers. They symbolize the opposite in both stories.

2.3 PHOENIX

2.3.1 Phoenix in HP Series

Harry saw a phoenix in Dumbledore's office in the book *The Chamber of Secrets* for the first time. This meeting was really unique because it was a 'Burning Day'. But Harry did not know that Dumbledore's pet was the phoenix and he thought he killed it, when the phoenix had burst into flame. But Dumbledore explained him that the phoenix passes away this way when its time has already come.

*"Fawkes is a phoenix, Harry. Phoenixes burst into flame when it is time for them to die and are reborn from the ashes. Watch him . . ."*¹⁵

Then Dumbledore explained what the phoenix is and what abilities it has.

*"He's really very handsome most of the time, wonderful red and gold plumage. Fascinating creatures, phoenixes. They can carry immensely heavy loads, their tears have healing powers, and they make highly faithful pets."*¹⁶

¹⁴ http://www.worldoftales.com/European_folktales/Polish_folktale_3.html

¹⁵ ROWLING, *The Chamber of Secrets*, 2010, p. 155

Rowling describes the phoenix in the book *Fantastic Beast and Where to Find Them* as “a magnificent, swan-sized scarlet bird with a long golden tail, beak and talons. It nests on mountain peaks and is found in Egypt, India and China.”¹⁷ The Phoenix is a vegetarian, it eats only herbs and it is a very gentle creature. It can disappear and its singing reputedly increases courage of the pure heart people but also evokes fear in bad people. Phoenix tears have healing powers. Tail feathers are used to making wands (“This is the rarest core type. Phoenix feathers are capable of the greatest range of magic, though they may take longer than either unicorn or dragon cores to reveal this. They show the most initiative, sometimes acting of their own accord, a quality that many witches and wizards dislike. Phoenix feather wands are always the pickiest when it comes to potential owners, for the creature from which they are taken is one of the most independent and detached in the world. These wands are the hardest to tame and to personalise, and their allegiance is usually hard won.”¹⁸

2.3.2 Egyptian Phoenix

The oldest European references about the phoenix are taken down in Herodotus’ notes (500BC). He learnt of the phoenix from Egyptian pictures that he had found in sacred city of Heliopolis. Herodotus described it as a bird that looks like a red-gold eagle which flew from Arabia to Egypt every 500 years.

There are few inconsistencies between Herodotus and Egyptian description of the phoenix. The Egyptian phoenix looked more like Yellow Wagtail at the beginning, later like Heron with long feathers on its head. Its Egyptian name is “Bunnu” that means “rise in greatness”. Bunnu was born from itself and became a symbol of Sun-god. The Egyptian hieroglyphic symbol of the phoenix means immortality and passing of time.

Rowling’s Phoenix really comes from Egypt. Also the shape of the body is similar - the shape of a swan’s body and wagtail or heron’s body resemble each other. Even the colour of Herodotus’ Phoenix fit the description to Rowling’s Phoenix.

¹⁶ ROWLING, *The Chamber of Secrets*, 2010, p. 155

¹⁷ SCAMANDER, *Fantastic Beasts*, 2001, p.31

¹⁸ www.pottermore.com

2.3.3 European Phoenix

2.3.3.1 Ancient Greek Phoenix

Ancient Greek called the phoenix as “Phoinix”. It can be translated as “purple” or “palm tree” maybe because phoenixes were famous of their nests in palm trees.

2.3.3.2 Ancient Roman Phoenix

The final name “Phoenix” comes from Romans. Romans studied phoenixes carefully. Claudius Claudianus (ca. 370 –404 AD) wrote that the phoenix comes from India. According to his researches the phoenix does not need any water for living, it needs only sunlight and that makes its equal to Gods. Claudianus’ Phoenix has a gold crest with a yellow star on it. His legs are red and it has blue wings. This phoenix is hermaphrodite that lives for 1.000 years. When it is ready to die, it builds a nest from rare herbs and begs for setting its nest on fire by Sun-god. The old phoenix dies in this fire and the new one is reborn again. The Young phoenix makes a ball from the rest of ash and grabs it to Heliopolis. It puts this ball on the altar where sacred fire is set and this fire burns down the ball.

Flavius Philostratus (c. AD 170) also wrote that the Phoenix comes from India. Flavius was probably inspired by Indian bird Garuda.

The burning ritual is in harmony with Rowling’s description in some points. Both Rowling and Claudianus give out the information that the phoenix dies in fires and he is reborn from ashes. Another origin country of the phoenix is India that Rowling states too.

2.3.3.3 Christian Phoenix

The symbol of the Phoenix is also found in Christian tradition. One mention appears in The Book of Job, chapter 29, verse 18, that says: *“Then I said, I shall die in my nest, and I shall multiply my days as the sand.”*¹⁹. Like Phoenix even Jesus resurrected from dead – John 10:17-18 *“The Father loves me because I sacrifice my life so I may take it back again. No one can take my life from me. I sacrifice it voluntarily. For I have the authority to lay it down when I want to and also to take it up again”*²⁰. Wings of the phoenix that contain rare aromatic herbs symbolise The Old and The New Testament. There is mentioned the obvious sign of resurrection from dead, both typical for Jesus and the phoenix.

¹⁹ http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/1611_Job-29-18/

²⁰ <http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/1611-Bible/book.php?book=John&chapter=10&verse=17-18>

2.3.4 Chinese Phoenix

The interpretation of Chinese Phoenix is quite different than the European. Chinese Phoenix is called the “*businia*”. However the mythical bird is “*Feng-huang*” which is similar to the Phoenix and is a symbol of grace and beauty. This bird has green body that means benignancy, long white neck symbolises justice, its back is red that is related to decency, black chest denotes wisdom and its yellow legs signify loyalty. It was thought to be a God of air because its Chinese symbol means air (Feng). It also symbolises an empress. Augusta (1947) states that Feng-huang has nine young birds.

It is clear from this description that the phoenix is a noble and gorgeous creature as well as Rowling describes it in the *Chamber of Secrets*.

Other names: Feniex, Fénis, Fenix, Phénix, Pták Ohnivák.

Rowling’s Phoenix is more similar to traditional Afro-European interpretation. Its typical colour is red and gold and the shape of its body, which reminds of the body of a swan or heron. But this Phoenix has some special abilities such as healing tears and it can be invisible.

2.3.5 Phoenix in fairy tales

Fairy tales about the phoenix are quite spread especially in the Middle and East Europe and in Asia.

The Brothers Grimm placed upon records the fairy tale called *The Golden Bird*. The fairy tale tells the story about the youngest son of the king who found out the golden feather of the Phoenix (the Golden bird in the story). He was the only one of the three brothers who obeyed some advice of the old fox and he gain the golden bird. This bird lives in far away kingdom in wooden cage. His voice is strident. The youngest prince gains the golden bird, the golden horse and the beautiful princess from the golden castle as well but his two older brothers throw him down to the well. The youngest one saves himself and when he arrives home the golden bird starts to sing.

The same fairy tale appears in the Russian folk however the fox is replaced by grey wolf. At the end of the fairy tale, the youngest prince called Ivan is murdered by his two older brothers. The prince is saved by a crow which brings the wolf the sparkling and the still water. The wolf smears the prince with the two sorts of water and brings the

prince to life again. The phoenix, or firebird in Russian fairy tales, sings beautiful songs when it is happy.

Even the Czech folk tradition owns the same fairy tale, recorded by Karel Jaromir Erben. The plot is the same, but the phoenix, in the Czech language Pták Ohnivák, disposes of another ability, it can heal the terminally ill king by its singing.

The phoenix in HP series is golden as well. Both types dispose of healing powers but the fairy tale phoenix heals by its singing contrary to Rowling's phoenix which heals by its tears.

Chinese folk and fairy tales are very rich in tales about phoenixes. The *Book of the Ten Thousand Wonders* contains three hundred and thirty-three fairy tales about phoenixes. The Chinese fairy tale from the *Book of the Ten Thousand Wonders*, called *The Story of the Phoenix* tells the story of the prince, who saw a beautiful princess while he was dreaming. He tries to find her and when he is at the edge of his powers and he tries to commit suicide, he meets the Phoenix. The Phoenix can speak and it looks like a fire of many colours. It can grow according to its wishes and carry very heavy loads. It knows all princesses around the world because it is a close friend of them thanks to its singing.

The fairy tale of *Bamboo and the Turtle* is the story about a boy named Bamboo who meets with the speaking statue of the turtle. The turtle is the lineal descendant of the first world's maker. Bamboo and the turtle escape together to the beginning of the world, where lives P'anku, the one of the four world's creator. The story mentions that the phoenix is extremely fast creature, faster than a dragon. The phoenix is depicted as *a queer-looking bird, unlike any that Bamboo had ever seen, but which he knew was the phoenix. This phoenix looked somewhat like a wild swan, but it had the bill of a cock, the neck of a snake, the tail of a fish and the stripes of a dragon. Its feathers were of five colours.*²¹

The phoenix can speak as well. Bamboo gains a long scarlet tail-feather from phoenix for a keepsake.

At this creature it is clear that Rowling proceeded from Euro-Egyptian depiction of the phoenix, even its name includes many variation. The Phoenix as well as or Golden Bird

²¹ http://www.worldoftales.com/Asian_folktales/Chinese_Folktale_6.html

is a bird which looks like a swan. Its feathers are red and gold. Very frequent theme is that the tears of both birds have healing powers.

2.4 UNICORN

2.4.1 Unicorn in HP Series

The unicorn belongs to the group of creatures that always impress people with its magical powers. Even Rowling characterizes it as a highly sacred beast. Her unicorns are fast - *Harry saw that Hagrid looked very worried. "Could a werewolf be killing the unicorns?" Harry asked. "Not fast enough," said Hagrid. "It's not easy ter catch a unicorn, they're powerful magic creatures. I never knew one ter be hurt before."*²² The first meeting of Harry and unicorn was very sad, because the unicorn was dead. The scene is full of contrasts, contrasts of colours and emotions. *"It was the unicorn all right, and it was dead. Harry had never seen anything so beautiful and sad. Its long, slender legs were stuck out at odd angles where it had fallen and its mane was spread pearly-white on the dark leaves."*²³

Harry speaks with centaur Firenze who explains him the power of unicorn's blood. *"Harry Potter, do you know what unicorn blood is used -for?" "No," said Harry, startled by the odd question. "We've only used the horn and tail hair in Potions." "That is because it is a monstrous thing, to slay a unicorn," said Firenze. "Only one who has nothing to lose, and everything to gain, would commit such a crime. The blood of a unicorn will keep you alive, even if you are an inch from death, but at a terrible price. You have slain something pure and defenseless to save yourself, and you will have but a half-life, a cursed life, from the moment the blood touches your lips."*²⁴

Harry meets unicorn again when he is in the fourth class. Thanks to professor Grrubly-Plank Harry gains a prefect interpretation of unicorns but unfortunately he is not listening. *"Oh it's so beautiful!" whispered Lavender Brown. "How did she get it? They're supposed to be really hard to catch!" The unicorn was so brightly white it made the snow all around look gray. It was pawing the ground nervously with its golden*

²² ROWLING, *The Philosopher's Stone*, 2010, p. 183

²³ ROWLING, *The Philosopher's Stone*, 2010, p. 186

²⁴ ROWLING, *The Philosopher's Stone*, 2010, p. 188

*hooves and throwing back its horned head. "They prefer the woman's touch, unicorns. Girls to the front, and approach with care, come on, easy does it. ..."*²⁵

Some parts of the unicorn's body are used as ingredients into potions ("silver unicorn horns at twenty-one Galleons each" and "unicorn hair at ten Galleons per one"²⁶) and as cores of wands: "Unicorn hair generally produces the most consistent magic, and is least subject to fluctuations and blockages. Wands with unicorn cores are generally the most difficult to turn to the Dark Arts. They are the most faithful of all wands, and usually remain strongly attached to their first owner, irrespective of whether he or she was an accomplished witch or wizard. Minor disadvantages of unicorn hair are that they do not make the most powerful wands (although the wand wood may compensate) and that they are prone to melancholy if seriously mishandled, meaning that the hair may 'die' and need replacing."²⁷.

Rowling contends that unicorns live in all forested parts of Northern Europe in the book TFBaWtFT. These unicorns are snowy-white with horns, but their founs are gold. They prefer contacts with witches more than with wizards and they are very fast beasts. "Horns, hair and blood have highly magical properties".

2.4.2 European Unicorn

2.4.2.1 Antique Unicorn

The oldest pictures of unicorns were located in Ancient Egypt in Persepolis City.

First mentions about unicorns in Europe are found in notes of Ancient Greeks. The oldest note is "Indica" written by Clesias who lived about 400 BC. He described the unicorn as an animal that is high as a horse, its body is white and it has red head with dark-blue eyes. The horn is placed on its forehead. The bottom part of the horn, near the forehead, is white but the middle and upper part are red. This creature is very strong and fast, even a horse cannot outrun it. It is impossible to catch it. The unicorn can be caught only when it is with its founs. Unicorns are haunted for bones and for horns. Clesias notes that unicorns live in Hindustan.²⁸

Aristotle named this beast as "oryx" and signed that it lived in Africa

²⁵ ROWLING, The Goblet of Fire, 2010, p379

²⁶ ROWLING, The Philosopher's Stone, 2010, p. 62

²⁷ www.pottermore.com

²⁸ Translation – AUGUSTA, Draci a obři, 1947, p. 89

Aelian handed us far more information in his note “Historia Animalium”. He called the unicorn as “Kartazonos”. This animal looks like a yellow horse with elephant’s legs.

Even Pliny the Elder wrote about unicorns in the note “Historia Naturalis”. His Unicorn consists of many different animals, it is similar to horse, the head looks like a stag, it has elephant’s legs, and the tail is pig. The horn grown from its forehead was black and two cubits long. This creature came from India.

The descriptions of Rowling’s and Clesias’ unicorn are very similar, both write that the unicorn is white, looks like a horse, it is very fast and has a horn on its forehead. They even mention that unicorns are haunted for their horns.

The contrast of colours is important. White colour is the symbol of purity and innocence. The unicorn is the symbol of light that may purify us from our sins. Unicorns look for people who deserve to help other people and can change the world. In the contrary, black colour symbolises darkness, sadness and mystery. It is also a symbol of evil, disobedience and death and it can mean a serious inner conflict. There is a difference between meaning of termination at white colour and black colour; white colour is connected with the next beginning but black colour is absolute ending of life.

The bright silver/grey colour of unicorn blood can symbolise the humbleness and sharp border between spaces (there it can be understand as border between good and evil) and hope but also sadness. Unicorns are often associated with hope. Silver colour is the colour of the Moon.

2.4.2.2 Unicorn in the Bible

Some researchers think that the unicorn symbolises Jesus. This idea can be based on fact, that Jesus and unicorn are symbols of purity. Rowling writes that killing of the unicorn is a serious crime and the one who killed the unicorn will live only a cursed half-life. Even though the faith of Pontius Pilate is not known, he washed his hands to show people that he did not want to have anything in common with Jesus death in the Bible.

It is known that all the animals in Paradise were named by Adam. Unicorn was the very first named animal and as a result God touched this Unicorn and gave it the gift of healing (the same ability that Jesus had). When God had expelled Adam and Eve from the Paradise he asked the unicorn whether it wanted to stay with God or leave with Adam. The unicorn shown its love, purity and mercy and it left with Adam.

This story can symbolise the decision of Jesus to stay with sinners on the Earth and his death for them, who followed him. The unicorn cannot be forced into anything, it is all

its decision, as well as decision of Jesus to come to the Earth and save people. He came pure and without hypocrisy that he hated.

The symbolism of colours is also important in the New Testament. Jesus is the symbol of light and purity, that refers to the white colour (the same meaning of the unicorn's white colour) and when he was crucified, there was an eclipse of the Sun, and everything was swallowed by darkness. The symbol of black colour is there in opposite to the white colour.

There are many references to unicorns in the Bible. Numbers 23:22 - *God brought them out of Egypt; he hath as it were the strength of an unicorn.*²⁹ Numbers 24:8 - *God brought him forth out of Egypt; he hath as it were the strength of an unicorn: he shall eat up the nations his enemies, and shall break their bones, and pierce them through with his arrows.*³⁰ Deuteronomy 33:17 - *His glory is like the firstling of his bullock, and his horns are like the horns of unicorns: with them he shall push the people together to the ends of the earth: and they are the ten thousands of Ephraim, and they are the thousands of Manasseh.*³¹ Job 39:9 - *Will the unicorn be willing to serve thee, or abide by thy crib?*³² Psalm 92:10 - *But my horn shalt thou exalt like the horn of an unicorn: I shall be anointed with fresh oil.*³³

One important part happens in the Forbidden forest, when Harry sees Voldemort drinking the blood of unicorn. Firenze explains to Harry that this crime is unforgivable and the one who drank the blood would live only the half-life in condemnation. This characteristic corresponds to the verse in the New Testament (1 Corinthians, chapter 11, verses 27-29) about anyone who accepted the Jesus in wrong way – *“Therefore, whoever eats the bread or drinks from the cup in an unworthy manner will be held responsible for the Lord's body and blood. A person must examine himself and then eat the bread and drink from the cup, because whoever eats and drinks without recognizing the body, eats and drinks judgment on himself.”*³⁴

It is obvious that Rowling drew inspiration from biblical symbolism of Jesus. The meaning of colours is immensely important for her as well as association of ideas between Jesus and unicorn.

²⁹ http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/1611_Numbers-23-22/

³⁰ http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/1611_Numbers-24-8/

³¹ http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/1611_Deuteronomy-33-17/

³² http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/1611_Job-39-9/

³³ http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/1611_Psalms-92-10/

³⁴ <http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/book.php?book=1+Corinthians&chapter=11&verse=27-29>

2.4.3 Chinese Unicorn

The unicorn is also known in China, but the Chinese unicorn is more similar to Chimera. The Japanese unicorn looked more like European unicorn. Vietnamese unicorn symbolises wealth and prosperity.

2.4.4 Medieval Unicorn

Unicorns were very popular in the Middle Ages. It was believed that unicorns lived somewhere in India, Arabia or Africa. Even the unicorn changed its appearance. It looked like a goat with a lion's tail with long spiralled wound horn. The unicorn was classified as even-toed. The unicorn became a symbol of Love.

Saint Hildegard of Bingen wrote that the unicorn ate only herbs. It is scared of men but followed women. It also lived alone, out of other animals.

Spanish doctor Garcia ab Horto (15th Century) who lived for very long time in India wrote that the unicorn lived near the Cape of Good Hope. Swedish traveller Anders Sparmann (1747-1787) also mentioned unicorns lived in the Cape of Good Hope because of pictures he had found in caves of mountains near the Cape.

There is clear the symbol of love – pure love and follows only women. Rowling mention that unicorn can be caught only by young witch (it can be believed that they are more pure and innocent than wizards). The Cape of Good Hope can be easily associated with unicorns. Rowling's unicorns are very kind; they do not hurt other animals and creatures.

2.4.5 The price of the Unicorn

The unicorn horn was highly prized for centuries. It is known that it was offered for 30.000 ducats in Venice 1559. The horn was believed to have healing effects, it was used against epilepsy, and especially king used chalices made from the unicorn horn because these vessels should defend against poisoning.

The horn was very expensive and it could be bought in pharmacies. The horn was crushed and added to the medicine. Augusta (1947) notes that this medicine was called "unicornu". There were three types of unicornu – "unicornu verum", "unicornu marinum" and "unicornu fossile". The last one, unicornum fossile, was used the most.

The unicorn horn is very important in HP books too. It is used for making of potions as well as unicorn blood. The use of unicorn horn is same; it is crushed and added into the potions. This ingredient is extremely strong. The crushed horn is added into Antidote to

Common Poisons. Unicorn hair is used not only for making of wands but also as an ingredient into the potions.

2.4.6 The latest mentions

The last information of the existence of unicorns is only about 150 year old. The French commissioned Officer L. W. Latter sent a letter to scientist J. Banks. He wrote that he had seen the unicorn in Tibet.

In this case Rowling was probably inspired by different sources in mythology. Her Unicorn is strictly white whereas mythical Unicorn has often various colours. But both types have one horn in the middle of their foreheads that is highly valued and they move exceedingly fast. But the symbolism of Unicorn is the most connected with Christian tradition.

2.4.7 Unicorn in fairy tales

Through the Looking Glass

Unicorn belongs to the group of creatures which does not appear often in fairy tales. There are only slight mentions, such as the Unicorn in Lewis Carroll book's Through the Looking Glass. The unicorn leads the fight against the lion for the crown which belongs to the White King in chapter 7. Unfortunately its appearance is not clearly described. Alice sings this song:

“The Lion and the Unicorn were fighting for the crown:

The Lion beat the Unicorn all round the town.

Some gave them white bread, some gave them brown:

Some gave them plum-cake and drummed them out of town”³⁵

These rhymes originate from oral tradition in the English language.

Carroll's unicorn has a horn on its forehead. It can speak and is not feared from Alice. The unicorn eats plum-cakes. The fight between the Unicorn and the Lion may seem absurd because they should represent the good-side, often highlighted by white colour.

The fight of the Lion and the Unicorn can be interpreted as a fight between England (which is symbolised by the Lion) and Scotland (the symbol of the Unicorn). The symbols of the lion and the unicorn occur on the Royal Coat of Arms of the United Kingdom. The lion depicted on the English Coat is crowned and the Unicorn not, but on the Scottish Coat both has the crown. Even the depiction is reversed for every country.

³⁵ CARROLL, L., Through the Looking Glass, 1872, p.46.

The Last Unicorn

Peter Beagle wrote the story about the Unicorn called *The Last unicorn*. This book was published in 1968 and is ranked among the best fantasy books of the 20th century. The feature film *The last Unicorn* was shot as an animated classic based on this book in 1982.

The unicorn is known as the very last unicorn in the world, but it decides to find the other unicorns.

“The unicorn lived in a lilac wood, and she lived all alone. She was very old, though she did not know it, and she was no longer the careless colour of sea foam but rather the colour of snow falling on a moonlit night. But her eyes were still clear and unwearied, and she still moved like a shadow on the sea.”³⁶

This unicorn is smaller than horse. It can kill the dragon only by fixing its eyes on that monster and it is immortal. The Unicorn lives in isolation from other ones.

The Last Unicorn represents love, peace and luck.

The unicorn, as well as the basilisk, does not appear frequently in fairy tales and fantasy stories. However it can be said that the unicorn is always depicted as a kind creature which symbolise love and peace. Its external appearance is same as Rowling’s characterization of this beautiful creature.

2.5 MERPEOPLE

2.5.1 Merpeople in HP Series

(Also known as Sirens, Selkies and Merrows)

It was Moaning Myrtle who revealed to Harry that Merpeople lived in Hogwarts Lake. Hogwarts Merpeople lived in stone villages which were similar to suburbs of humans and they bred grindylows as pets.

“The merpeople had grayish skin and long, wild, dark green hair. Their eyes were yellow, as were their broken teeth, and they wore thick ropes of pebbles around their necks...”³⁷ Their body ended by silver fish tail instead of legs. The merpeople of Hogwarts are quite tall.

³⁶ BEAGLE, P. *The Last Unicorn*, 2008, p. 7

³⁷ ROWLING, *The Goblet of Fire*, 2010, p. 432

The book TFBaWtFT (2010) says that Merpeople are spread all around the world. Their looking is different from place to place as human nations. Merpeople, as Centaurs, conceal their habits from people but a few wizards, who have learned their language, talk about highly organized community. Merpeople as well as Centaurs denied “being” status and they want to be in the “beast” category.

Ancient Greeks depicted Mermaid as Sirens; Mermaids lived in warmer water and were famous for their beauty. All the Merpeople love music.

Legends about Merpeople exist in many countries worldwide. The problem is that a lot of legends and stories are applied only to female characteristics; these stories largely deal with cruel women called Mermaids.

2.5.2 Assyrian Legends

First stories about Merpeople, or Mermaids, come from Assyria. The most famous story is about goddess Atargatis who loved mortal man but she killed him in accident. She was desperate, jumped into water and tried to switch into a fish, but she was unsuccessful and she took the form of the first Mermaid. Ancient Greeks renamed Atargatis as Derketo.

Some Gods of Ancient Greeks lived under the sea. Triton was half a man and half a fish. A message which was sent to Emperor Tiberius said that Triton had been seen in a cave near the Mediterranean Sea. The sister of Alexander the Great also turned into the Mermaid when she had passed away.

2.5.3 European Merpeople and Mermaids

2.5.3.1 Mermaids in Great Britain

References about Mermaids living in waters near the British Islands come from the end of 11th century. British Mermaids symbolized an oncoming disaster or approaching rough weather. Mermaids were more dangerous than Mermen to people because Mermaids had higher interest in humans. Some Mermaids taught humans to cure diseases. British Mermaids are believed to be enormous in size.

Merpeople from Hogwarts’ lake are also quite enormous in size. But there is a difference between mermaids and mermen in this description. Rowling’s Merpeople are equal each other but British Merpeople not.

2.5.3.2 Slavic Tradition

Rusalkas and Samodivas are other names of Mermaids in Slavic Mythology. The name Rusalka is from Latin words “Dies Rosae” meaning “Days of Roses”. Slavs commemorated their beloved who were already dead these days. The origin of Rusalkas is different from place to place and its interpretation depends on every Slavic country. Rusalkas were either spirits of drowned girls or they became a navi at first – the evil demons - and after a long time they changed into Rusalkas.

Rusalkas can be divided into three groups. The first group consisted of the most beautiful girls who were drowned. They lived in very stupendous palaces. The second group is for “mavkas”, the spirits of babies who were drowned by their mothers. They lived in caves and were extremely cruel to humans. Melusines belonged to the last group. According to legends the first Melusine was the daughter of the Mermaid.

2.5.4 Asian Mermaids

Mermaids are well known even in Asia. Chinese Mermaids wept pearls and they could weave highly valued material. Their tails were supposedly purple when they were happy, and turned red when they were sad. Other legends said that Mermaids were very stupid.

Suvannamaccha is a mermaid princess that appears in Thai and Cambodians tales.

The first incarnation of Indian God Vishnu is Matsya Avatar who is a merman.

2.5.5 Merpeople in other parts of the World

“In modern Caribbean culture, the mermaid is found as Haitian Vodou Lwa La Sirene (literally, 'the mermaid') who is lwa of wealth and beauty and the orisha Yemaya.

Examples from other cultures are the Mami Wata of West and Central Africa, the Jengu of Cameroon, the Merrow of Ireland and Scotland, the Rusalkas of Russia and Ukraine, the Iara from Brazil and the Greek Oceanids, Nereids, and Naiads.”³⁸

Merpeople are known in Africa but under a different name – Mami and Papi Wata. These Mami and Papi Watas are similar to merpeople, they live in water. Mami Watas have very long and beautiful hair of all colours. Their bodies often look like human but sometimes they are a half woman and a half fish when they have a fish tail instead of the legs. Mama Wata is depicted in two colours - red and white which represent the oppositeness. The red colour means the colour of blood, death and violence and

³⁸ www.wikipedia.com

symbolizes the male element while the white colour means spirituality and beauty and it is a symbol of woman.³⁹

2.5.6 Medieval Mermaids

Mermaids of the Middle Ages had different appearance. They were recognized as Mermaids and Merwomen. Merwomen were pretty charming but their faces were very cruel. Their hair was long but solid as horsehair. The bottom part of their bodies looked like aquiline bodies. They had sharp claws on their feet and long tail covered by scales. They sang only melodies which sounded like crying. Mermaids were deadly dangerous not only to seamen but humans too because they keened on human blood and meat. Their head and breasts were similar to Sirens'. Their teeth were very sharp. Their tails looked like dolphins tails. Mermaids were admirable strong and they were unbeatable when they were in water. Unfortunately they were almost powerless on the shore.

2.5.7 Special kind of Merpeople

Rumours say that Melusine is the founder of French aristocracy.

Sirens became popular thanks to Homer and his stories about Odysseus. Homer's Sirens were beautiful and tempting but they were unduly cruel. Sirens are also well known on Philippines.

Legends of Mermaids are spread all around the world so Rowling's Merpeople are apparently inspired by them but the most by Western-European lore. Their bodies end by fish tail and they like music. Especially British Mermaids are believed to be very tall as well as Merpeople from Hogwarts.

The colour of Hogwarts' Merpeople is green and grey. Green colour, especially bright green colour, is associated with cold, silent and wet, and this way the world under water can be characterized as well as the Merpeople. Green colour has different interpretation; it is not only a colour of rebirth and new life but also a colour of devilish creatures and Merpeople, especially Mermaids can be judged as extremely cruel creatures. Green colour support perception of music and Merpeople love music. Grey colour symbolises sadness, neutrality and sharp borders between spaces. The main importance of Merpeople in HP series does not have to be obvious but it may symbolise contrast between wizards and other fairytale creature which are similar to human beings. It is known, that Merpeople build villages under water which look like the human ones.

³⁹ Translation - <http://www.beautiful-mermaid-art.com/african-mythology-2.html>

They have their own language called Mermish that put them on a par with human. Another contrast can symbolise the different places for living. Humans cannot live under the water, because this place is incompatible with human life. This may be understood as something lethal - that Merpeople are very dangerous.

Despite the fact, that many characteristics of Mermaids describes relations between people and Mermaids predominantly negative, Rowling's Merpeople have neutral or positive relations with witches and wizards.

Merpeople's eyes are yellow. Yellow colour is a symbol of wisdom and intelligence. Wizards who can speak Mermish say that Merpeople are intelligent creatures which live in highly organized communities.

2.5.8 Fairytale Merpeople

There is one short story *The Fisherman and the Merman* in Scottish folklore. Merpeople are characterized as beings that live in deep oceans in houses constructed of pearls and corals. Their lungs work on the same principles as human and that is the reason why they need to surface from water. Nevertheless they can change themselves into underwater animals such as seals or Haaf-fish and then they cover a large distance in a form of a seal. Sometimes they take a form of a half man and a half fish. If merman or merwoman leave water, they cannot return back to water as merpeople, because they change into human beings.

The Entangled Mermaid is a Dutch fairy tale about a mermaid who lived in a pool with half salt and half fresh water. On animals lived there except of strokes. These merpeople seem very dressy, they care a lot for their appearance and they were preoccupied with themselves. At the end of the tale the pool was destroyed by humans and the Queen of merpeople passed away and her body was stuffed and given to the museum.

The most popular fairy tale about a mermaid is *The Little Mermaid* written by Hans Christian Andersen. The Little Mermaid is a story about a young Mermaid who fell in love with a prince. She gave up everything for him, her family, her tail and tongue and her life. She could save her life but she surrendered this chance and thanks to this generous deed she gained her own soul and she could enter the Heaven.

Mermaids occur in Slavic folklore as well. The Slovak fairytale of *The Firebird and the Mermaid* depicts the Mermaid as extremely beautiful young girl who lives in the Black

Sea. She likes music, golden jewels and precious stones. This mermaid looks more like a human being than a half woman and a half fish because she has two legs and she can speak.

Chinese fairy tale tradition seems different. The *Hairy Mermaid* is a story about a man who married a mermaid. This mermaid had two legs instead of the fin, and she could not speak. She did not get older and when her husband passed away she returned back to the ocean.

Despite the fact, that Rowling's merpeople seem different from all these fairytales, many common signs can be found. Merpeople love music as well as mermaids in the Slovak fairytale. Hogwarts merpeople live in village and they live in highly organized community. This element is very common among the fairytales of mermaids. Mermaids often live in the ocean, but some can live even in a pool like Rowling's merpeople.

However their appearance is very similar, almost all these creatures stay under water, but they can breathe the air as human beings as well. The theme of the shape of their body – the fish tail - is used very often too.

2.6 WEREWOLF

2.6.1 Werewolf in HP Series

First mention about werewolves can be found in the first two books: *Philosopher's Stone* in chapter 15 where Harry, Hermione, Neville and Draco go to the Forbidden Forest to find out what kills the Unicorns, and in *Chamber of Secret* when Harry's class got homework to compose the poem about Lockhart's defeating Wagga Wagga Werewolf.

However in *The Prisoner of Azkaban* there is the werewolf one of the main characters. Hermione Granger was the very first who recognized that professor Lupin was a werewolf. It was that essay professor Snape assigned to Harry's class when professor Lupin was ill, which helped Hermione to find out the truth about Lupin. But she revealed this after a very long time, when she thought that Lupin was a traitor and he helped Sirius Black. Lupin admits his curse in *The Shrieking Shack*: "*The Shrieking Shack was never haunted.... The screams and howls the villagers used to hear were made by me.*" He pushed his graying hair out of his eyes, thought for a moment, then said, "*That's where all of this starts -- with my becoming a werewolf. None of this could*

*have happened if I hadn't been bitten... and if I hadn't been so foolhardy..." Then he describes how it happened ... "I was a very small boy when I received the bite. My parents tried everything, but in those days there was no cure. The potion that Professor Snape has been making for me is a very recent discovery. It makes me safe, you see. As long as I take it in the week, preceding the full moon, I keep my mind when I transform.... I'm able to curl up in my office, a harmless wolf, and wait for the moon to wane again. Before the Wolfsbane Potion was discovered, however, I became a fully fledged monster once a month. It seemed impossible that I would be able to come to Hogwarts. Other parents weren't likely to want their children exposed to me."*⁴⁰

Remus John Lupin was a member of the Order of Phoenix and he belonged among the few good werewolves. He passed away together with his wife Nymphadora during the Battle of Hogwarts. But there was also one extremely cruel werewolf, the ally of Voldemort – Fenrir Greyback. He went in with Voldemort only because he could easier hunt his victims. Fenrir bit Lupin and scratched Bill Weasley.

The Werewolf Code of Conduct was validated in 1637⁴¹. Dolores Umbridge also pushed through many laws against werewolves.

A Werewolf is described in the book TFBaWtFT (2001) as a human who was bitten by werewolf. The infected one changes his appearance every full moon. Excluding this time this individual behaves as common people. The potion for curing still does not exist but there are some potions that can deaden the worst symptoms. One of these potions is called the Wolfsbane Potion. Thanks to this potion the werewolves which drank it before their transfiguration can keep their rationality and conscience.

2.6.2 Lycanthropy

2.6.2.1 Antique Lycanthropy

Legends of werewolves or wolves are well known since the Antiquity, even though stories about werewolves appeared only at the beginning of the Middle Ages.

Stories about werewolves were inspired by people who had suffered from lycanthropy. Lycanthropy was known in the Antiquity too and humans believed that they had been turned into wolves, dogs or cows and bears in Europe and hyenas in Africa.

⁴⁰ ROWLING, *The Prisoner of Azkaban*, 2010, p. 258

⁴¹ ROWLING, *The Philosopher's Stone*, 2010, p. 192

Symptoms of this illness were parched throat, thirstiness, overheating, eye burning and tearing, cramps, and desire of destroying.

2.6.2.2 Curing Lycanthropy

The Ancient Greeks and Romans tried to cure lycanthropy. Humans who were suspected of being werewolves had to work very hard. By contrast the medieval Europeans used far more radical methods: medicinal, surgical or exorcism cures. Aconitum (or also known as wolfs bane or monkshood) was used as medical cure.

Sicilian used piercing of the werewolves' hands by nails. Germans used more gentle methods; they believed they could cure the werewolf by repeating his name for three times.

In HP stories the magic medics (called Healers) try to cure werewolves by special potion (Wolfsbane potion) that can keep werewolf his human mind and the werewolf is not dangerous to other people.

2.6.3 European Werewolf

2.6.3.1 Antique Legends

Some mentions about changing humans into wolves can be found in Greek mythology. Lycaon, the king of Arcadia, was transformed into the wolf by Zeus because he had offered meat of a child as meal to Zeus.

It is also said, that Rome was founded by twins Romulus and Remus who had been saved by she-wolf.

Pliny noted the story of transformation of Jupiter Lycaeus into a wolf.

Rowling chose for one of her character the name Remus Lupin. Without knowing wider context it is clear that this character has something in common with a wolf. Remus Lupin is a very exceptional character. His illness can be perceived as an allegory to HIV in the real world. Both people with HIV or werewolves share the same problem; they suffer from prejudices and segregation because people are often afraid of them. Remus is a withdrawn person who is afraid of contact of other people because of his handicap. Thanks to Dumbledore he could study Hogwarts schools where he finally found real friends. His friends James, Sirius and Peter even learnt the way of turning into animals (they became animagus) because they wanted to spend time with Remus when he turned into a werewolf every full moon.

2.6.3.2 Slavic tradition

Wolfs were significant in many different legends all round the world. They were often described as huge beasts with long bloody fangs and cruelly shining eyes.

Although wolves were thought to be pests in agriculture cultures, in Slavic hunters' fellowships they were worshipped. The transformation into the wolf was perceived as something great during the pagan period. Slavic rulers boasted of switching into the wolf's shape. The view of the turning into the wolves changed with the advent of Christianity. Wolves and especially werewolves became the Devil's creation.

It is a question whether Remus Lupin is a good werewolf or not. The answer seems to be simple, but it is not. Remus and other werewolves are innocuous when they drink Wolfsbane potion regularly, but when they do not, they are dangerous. In *The Prisoner of Azkaban* Lupin forgot his potion and he behaved as a real werewolf. That is the reason why the answer is so difficult, even when the werewolf tries to be good, he cannot control himself during full moon because he is driven by his instincts.

2.6.3.3 Scandinavian Legends

Some sources state that werewolves came from Norway or the Orient but few oldest records about werewolves come from the Balkan of the 9th century AD and the legends spread all over Europe.

Interesting legends of werewolves come from Iceland. Icelandic werewolves are not humans but giants who can change their appearance into werewolves. According to the Poetic Edda⁴² werewolves Sköll and Hati will destroy the Sun and the Moon when the Apocalypse begins. Even Odin owned two huge wolves – Geri and Freki.

2.6.3.4 Germanic Legends

But the most important wolf (or werewolf) of German mythology is Fenrir. Fenrir was the descendant of the God Loki and a Giant. Fenrir's siblings were the snake called Midgardsörm and cruel Hel. Odin had found out about the prophecy of these siblings and he sent other Gods to catch these beasts. Hel became the ruler of the Underworld, Midgardsörm was thrown down the Ocean and Fenrir, because he was the most dangerous, was tied up with magic handcuffs called Gleipni. Nevertheless the legend says that at the end of the world Fenrir will break free from his handcuffs and he

⁴² Poetic Edda – A collection of Old Norse poems

together with his his brother Midgardsörm will destroy the whole world and Fenrir will kill Odin.

Rowling also includes a character called Fenrir in her HP series. Fenrir Grayback is extremely violent werewolf. He does not drink the potion for werewolves and the only thing in which he is interested is killing and he tries to contaminate as many people as possible. He attacks mainly young children. It was Fenrir who bit Lupin and scratched Bill Weasley. He even attacked Lavender Brown and killed her.

2.6.3.5 Celtic tradition

Wolves were peaceful and kind but on the other hand they were life-threatening beasts in Celtic tradition. A she-wolf symbolized maternity, but a he-wolf was considered to be a wrecker and ally of Death.

Stories about werewolves are very rare in England maybe because wolves were almost exterminated during the Anglo-Saxon period. Scotland has its own legend of werewolf who was called Wulver. Wulver was more spirit than real beast. Its body has a shape of human body, but the head is similar to wolf's head. Another legend of werewolf called Faoladh comes from Ireland. Faoladh is known as a protector of children and humans who got hurt.

Lupin also works with children. He is often called the best teacher of Defences against the Dark Arts that Harry ever had.

2.6.4 Ways of changing into a werewolf

A werewolf was a man who could shapeshift his human body into wolf's body under the influence of the Moon. But there were a lot more ways of transformation into werewolves. The simplest ways were wearing of wolf skin or using magic salves and drinking water from animals' footprints. It was very rare to become the werewolf by being bitten of another werewolf. Nevertheless human could become the werewolf when some of his relatives had already been the werewolf. It was believed that people who were born on Christmas day or on a new moon at the feet first position were predisposed to become the werewolf. Babies who were born with dentes praelacteales were thought to become the werewolf as well as a vampire. *In Italy, France and Germany, it was said that a man or woman could turn into a werewolf if he or she, on a certain Wednesday or Friday, slept outside on a summer night with the full moon*

*shining directly on his face*⁴³. Norwegian werewolves lost their human intelligence when they had turned into the beast.

There are some points that Rowling uses in her series – the influence of the moon on the shape-shift of the body from human to werewolf, the idea that being werewolf is familial (Remus was afraid that his son would be a werewolf too), and werewolves lose their human intelligence when they turned into the werewolf.

It was also believed that humans who were able to turn into the werewolf were cursed by a witch. These werewolves had to spend their life in the wolf's skin as long as the curse was effective. They had very sad look and they did not hurt anybody.

But some people were able to turn into werewolves by their own choice but first they had to make a pact with the Devil. These people were recognized by their long straight eyebrows, their middle fingers were unusually long, nails were scarlet and almond-shaped and they had hair on their backs right between shoulder blades. They were extremely cruel; they haunted livestock and they could send plague down upon people and cattle. Some werewolves mated with humans and their children were boneless.

Rowling writes that the only way of turning into a werewolf is to be bitten by another werewolf. Witches and wizards who can change their appearance by their own choice are called animagus. They do not lose their human intelligence when they turn into animals.

Werewolves described by Rowling are very similar to mythological werewolves in some points. They lose their rational human mind when they turn into werewolves as well as Norwegian werewolves and their transformation happens during the full moon. Some of Rowling's werewolves are good but on the other hand almost all of them are cruel. Inspiration of Romulus and Remus' legend is obvious in Lupin's character. His name Remus refers right to this legend as well as the surname Lupin which comes from latin word "lupus" meaning "wolf" in Latin. Likewise the name of Fenrir Greyback is related to Icelandic legend of the wolf Fenrir.

Lupin was also afraid that his child could be a werewolf. In German mythology it was believed that werewolves' children were werewolves too.

⁴³ Woodward, Ian. *The Werewolf Delusion*. 1976

The potion for deaden the werewolves' symptoms is made of wolfsbane - the same herb which was used in the Medieval Europe for curing the lycanthropy.

2.6.5 Werewolf in fairytales

Swedish fairy tale known as *Werewolf* is about the princess who lost her mother and she persuaded her father to marry her court lady. Nevertheless her step mother was very cruel. The princess fell in love with prince, but her step mother wanted the prince for her daughter. However the prince denied her daughter because he loved the princess and the step-mother enchanted him into a werewolf. One day the princess got lost in the forest. She met an old man who advised her to make a special potion. When the werewolf occurred she poured it by that potion and the great grey werewolf transformed into the prince. While the king and step-mother with her daughters searched for the princess, she threw the werewolf pelt on the step-mother and daughters and suddenly they changed into werewolves.

The most well know wolf is the wolf from the fairy tale about *the Little Ridding hood*. There are many interpretation of this fairy tale. The most spread variation says that the wolf eats Granny and Little Ridding hood and at the end they are saved by gamekeeper and the wolf drowns in the well.

Another popular fairy tale in England is the story of *Three Little Pigs and the Wolf*.

One Russian variation of a fairy tale about the phoenix, called *Story of Lyubim Tsarevich and the Winged Wolf*, deals with the story where the wolf appears as well. The wolf helps to prince. It can speak and it is quite intelligent. Its function in the story can be described as a mentor of the prince, it advises him what he should do and it saves the prince's life many times in the story.

Totally different story of the wolf is depicted in the Ukraine fairy tale *The Iron Wolf*. A servant concludes a contract with the Iron Wolf but when the time comes up, the servant tries to escape from the Wolf. At the end of the tale the Wolf is killed by servant's dogs.

Stories and tales about wolves or werewolves are widely spread in the Europe as well as in North America. Indigenous people of North America, Indians, lived in close connection with wolves and that is the reason for many and many stories about these animals. The tale called *How the Wolf Ritual Began* is about a girl who married a wolf which looked like handsome man at first. They had two children who were a half wolfs

and a half men. Many years passed and sons started to inquire about their human grandfather. They visited him and the woman explained her father that wolves are friends to the tribe and taught him all the wolves' habits. There is a mention that *the Wolves know everything and read the minds of human creatures*⁴⁴ in the story.

Wolves belong to the creatures of the *Middle-Earth* which decided to join the Orcs. Some of strapping wolves worked as horses to Orcs. There was one special race of wolves called Warges worked together with Stone-trolls. There were very large and fast animals and they could speak. Despite the fact that they predatory, they were scared of fire. They lived in packs. Majority of Warges were eradicated during the Battle for Middle-Earth. Warges also appear in the novel *The Hobbit*. Tolkien writes about werewolves in the novel *Simarillion*. He depicts werewolves as former evil ghosts which were transformed into werewolves. They were extremely cruel and their eyes glowed frighteningly.

A special race of werewolves occurs in the *Twilight* series. These werewolves are known as *Children of the Moon*. For ages members of the Quileute Tribe (a tribe of a Native American who lives in the area of today's State of Washington) can independently transform their appearance from human to wolf's shape. These wolves are depicted as very large creatures with mighty strength and they run extremely fast. The colours of their fur are various. They use telepathy for communication and they own an ability of very fast healing.

Stories of wolves and werewolves are widely spread primarily in Europe and North America. Fairytales of these creatures does not appear in Asian countries so often. The wolf or werewolf's characterization is very similar to Rowling's depiction. These creatures can often speak and they can switch into a human being and back. However many of them are not influenced by Moon, they can shift independently of a day-time. Some of them are extremely violent, but there are some hints that Rowling may used in her story – for example the wolf in Russian fairytale of *Lyubim Tsarewitch*, the similarity of the wolf and Rowling's Remus Lupin as mentors is quite obvious.

⁴⁴ <http://library.thinkquest.org/03oct/00343/fairytaleindex.htm>

2.7 GIANT

2.7.1 Giants in HP Series

Pure-blooded giants are very tall; they can reach over six metres in length. Today giants live in mountains far away from people and their tribal chief is so-called Gurg. They are violent in nature and they do not trust to wizards. They were the Allies of Voldemort during the First Wizarding War.

Hagrid is the son of a wizard and a giant. Despite his mother giant his nature is very warm and kind.

“A giant of a man was standing in the doorway. His face was almost completely hidden by a long, shaggy mane of hair and a wild, tangled beard, but you could make out his eyes, glinting like black beetles under all the hair.”⁴⁵

Grawp is the full giant and he is also Hagrid’s brother. Although he is the giant he is not as tall as the others. He lives in the Forbidden Forest and he likes Hermione.

“Harry said nothing, but turned to look back at the gigantic form lying asleep on the ground in front of them. Unlike Hagrid, who simply looked like an oversized human, Grawp looked strangely misshapen. What Harry had taken to be a vast mossy boulder to the left of the great earthen mound he now recognised as Grawp's head. It was much larger in proportion to the body than a human head, and was almost perfectly round and covered with tightly curling, close-growing hair the colour of bracken. The rim of a single large, fleshy ear was visible on top of the head, which seemed to sit, rather like Uncle Vernon's, directly upon the shoulders with little or no neck in between. The back, under what looked like a dirty brownish smock comprised of animal skins sewn roughly together, was very broad; and as Grawp slept, it seemed to strain a little at the rough seams of the skins. The legs were curled up under the body. Harry could see the soles of enormous, filthy, bare feet, large as sledges, resting one on top of the other on the earthy Forest floor.”⁴⁶ (Order of the Phoenix)

Another half-giant is Madam Olympe Maxime, the headmaster of Beauxbatons Academy of Magic.

2.7.2 Sorting of Giants

Giants can be divided into two groups. The first one has its mythological roots, where giants functioned as personification of rocks, mountains, clouds and so on. The second

⁴⁵ ROWLING, The Philosopher’s Stone, 2010, p. 39

⁴⁶ ROWLING, The Order of The Phoenix, 2010, p. 611

one is historical group. The historical group is about famous and great conquerors whose importance was measured by their length because the length symbolised strength and cruelty.

2.7.3 Cyclopes and Giants in Ancient Greece

Cyclopes were most popular giants of the Ancient Greek. They had only one eye right in the middle on their foreheads. Homer believed that they lived in caves of Sicilia. They were a nation of shepherds, they bred goats and sheep. Polyphemus became the most famous of Cyclopes.

According to Homer Giants were extremely wild, they even fought with Olympian Gods but they were defeated. They loved to fight with other Giants; they could throw rocks and burning trees on their rivals.

Rowling's Giants are also very cruel and they are ready to put up the fight in a moment

2.7.4 European Giants

2.7.4.1 First Giants of Antique Legends

The appearance of giants was changed under the reign of Alexander the Great. These giants appeared like humans but their legs gave the impression of bodies of snakes. Other descriptions presented that giants had heads of lions or bulls. Some of them were winged.

Famous Giants of Ancient Greek were Triton, Atlas or Geryones.

Giant Kakus was a Giant of Ancient Romans. He was killed by Heracles.

2.7.4.2 Germanic Legends

Another giant, Ymir, is known from German and Norse mythology. He is the founder of giants. Their settlement was called Jotumheimar. It is believed, that Ymir brought water into existence from his blood, land from his meat, mountains from his bones and forests from his hair.

These giants do exist more as metaphor than the real ones.

2.7.4.3 Slavic tradition

The Slavs thought that clouds are product of giants. Almost all heroes of Russian folktales are giants. Rübzahl was very kind giant who lived in the Giant Mountains in the Czech Republic.

2.7.4.4 Biblical Giants

References about giants can be found in the Bible. Their biblical names are Nephilim and Rephaim. Goliath is probably the most famous giant of the Bible.

2.7.5 Giants of the Middle Ages

Giants were well known even in the Middle Ages. The Legend of Gog and Magog who protected London came from Great Britain since the rule of King Henry V. Gog and Magog appeared in the Bible too where they are strongly vicious. Another British story connects Gog and Magog into one giant Gogmagog who lived near Cornwall. This giant had been thrown down the cliff by brave soldier. Giant Gargantua arose from the pen of the French writer Francois Rabelais. Geoffrey from Monmouth thought that Stonehenge was built by Irish giants. English giants are known for their stupidity and cruel behaving.

There is the point that almost all giants in legends are extremely cruel and stupid. But Rowling's half-giants are kind. It is probably because they are half people. Nevertheless Hagrids' brother Grawp is a full-giant and he is good to humans.

2.7.6 Giants in Fairytales

Fairy tales of giant are wide spread mainly in Western Europe and in America.

Jack the Giant-Killer is the most popular English fairy tale of Giants in The United Kingdom.

The giant Cormoran from Cornwall is depicted as *full eighteen feet in height, some three yards about his middle, of a grim fierce face, and he was the terror of all the country-side. He lived in a cave amidst the rocky Mount, and when he desired victuals he would wade across the tides to the mainland and furnish himself forth with all that came in his way.*⁴⁷

Cormoran was very violent and he could speak. Jack captured the giant and killed it. Since then he was known as Jack the Giant-Killer. The Giant guarded a bug treasure.

Another Giant Blunderbore which lived to the north *was lord of an enchanted castle that stood in the middle of a lonesome forest.* Blunderbore imprisoned Jack in his castle. Jack found two chords, made looses on them and bound Blunderbore and his brother together. Then he slew them.

⁴⁷ http://www.worldoftales.com/European_folktales/English_folktale_95.html

In Wales Jack met the giant with two faces. This Giant was fierce but clever. It greeted Jack in a friendly way. Nonetheless Jack was brighter than the Giant and he killed the Giant again.

Jack became a servant of a Prince, the son Of King Arthur. Then Jack met the three-headed Giant which was *dolt* according to Jack. But this Giant was not so cruel. He begged Jack for a life and promised Jack to give him everything what he asked for. Jack asked for a coat, cup, sword and slippers. These objects were enchanted. The coat made Jack invisible, the cup answered on everything what Jack questioned it, the sword cut everything asunder and the slippers took Jack everywhere in the twinkling of the eye. Thanks to these artefacts Jack helped Prince to save the lady and Jack became the Knight of the Round Table. After then Jack found the most terrific Giant. *His goggle eyes were as coals of fire, his countenance was grim and gruesome; his cheeks, like huge flitches of bacon, were covered with a stubbly beard, the bristles of which resembled rods of iron wire, while the locks of hair that fell on his brawny shoulders showed like curled snakes or hissing adders. He held a knotted iron club, and breathed so heavily you could hear him a mile away*⁴⁸. He killed the Giant as well. But the Giant known as Thunderdell found out what happened to its kinsmen and he decided to take revenge on Jack. This Giant was terribly cruel. It was big and heavy and when it stood in the middle of the bridge, the bridge snapped, the Giant fell into the moat and drowned.

The very last Giant killed by Jack was Galligantua. When Jack killed it all the Giants in the world already disappeared.

Swedish fairy tale of *The Skalunda Giant* tells the story of a Giant who lived in the Skalunda Mountains. The local people built there a church but the Giant did not like it. It was irritated by the church-bells' ringing and he moved away.

Brother Grimms wrote down the story called *The Giant and the Tailor*. A tailor did not like his job and decided to travel around the world. One day he met an enormous giant which was not much clever but the giant offered the tailor a job. However the tailor scared the giant so much that the giant took him to the forest and made the tailor leave.

The Czech fairy tale known as *O Palečkovi* is about very little boy whose name was Paleček. He was the youngest and the bravest of all his brothers. He and his brothers

⁴⁸ http://www.worldoftales.com/European_folktales/English_folktale_95.html

decided to wander around the world. One day they met a Giantess and asked her whether they could sleep at her. She agreed but warned them that her husband was a cruel men-eater. Children stayed but Paleček prudently switched their bonnet with men-eater daughters' crowns. The men-eater, because he was hungry, killed his daughters instead of the boys at night. Boys ran away but the men-eater used his swift shoes and chased them. While he was asleep, Paleček stole his shoes and he with his brothers escaped from the evil men-eater.

Giants appear in America as well. *The story of The Giant* is about a giant which lived together with Inuits as a rightful member of the tribe. It is characterized as *so tall that he could straddle the inlet, and he used to stand that way every morning and wait for the whales to pass beneath him. And he ate the whole whale just as other men eat a small fish.*⁴⁹ He was as tall as he perceived bears as foxes.

The Giant's Pupil is a fairy tale of Southern Americans. Poor boy Manoel got friend with a giant who lived in the forest. The Giant taught Manoel everything about nature and animals which lived in the forest and Manoel became very clever. One day a Princess announced that she would marry the one who would give her such a riddle she would not know the answer on. Manoel win the princess thanks to wisdom he gained from the kind forest giant.

Giants or Ogres appear in J.R.R. Tolkien's books. Morgoth Bauglir or originally Melkor is a fictional creature in Tolkien's books *Silmarillion*, *The Children of Horúin* and slight hints can be found in *The Lord of the Rings*. Melkor was the creator of stone-trolls as the opposite of Ents. Stone-trolls are depicted as tall, stupid, violent man-eaters whose blood was black coloured and they did not have fingers on their feet. They were as hard as stone. They could not stand the sun light, because it was fatal for them – it transformed them into stone. Stone-trolls lived in dark caves and they hoarded treasures of their human victims. Although they took over the language of Orcs, they never mastered the language perfectly. Sauron made experiments with Stone-trolls. He created a new race know as Olog-hai. These trolls were extremely powerful and strong-arm and they were resistant to the sunshine while they were under control of Sauron. After

⁴⁹ http://www.worldoftales.com/Native_American_folktales/Eskimo_folktale_3.

destroying of the Ring Olog-hais were not under control of Sauron anymore and they were exterminated.

Almost all these fairytale and fantasy Giants have in common that they are big, stupid and extremely violent. Rowling used this depiction as well. The only kind Giants appear in the Northern and Southern American folktale. This fact, that giants can be kind too, may influence Rowling's Hagrid.

2.8 WIZARD

2.8.1 Wizard

Wizards are pretty popular in all cultures worldwide. A wizard is someone who owns magical skills. According to C. G. Jung the wizard is an archetype of a wise old man. Various skills were assigned to wizards depending on the culture. They had different names: *magic-user, mage, sorcerer, witch, wizard, warlock, enchanter, enchantress, illusionist, diviner, conjurer, or thaumaturge*⁵⁰ and so on. Magic skills include charms, transfiguration, divination, communication with the beyond and dark magic. Wizards and shamans were believed to be some kind of intermediary between ordinary people and spirits or Gods.

2.8.2 European Wizards

2.8.2.1 Scandinavian mythology

The God Odin owned the strongest magic power in Nordic mythology. Odin was son of Giants and he was a creator of the Earth, space and people. He lived in Valhalla, but he often wandered among people as an old grey-haired man in long capuche, wide hat and cane. Odin was oldest and the most wise among Gods. He was reckoned as founder of runic alphabet. Odin could open caves and cairns. He owned the best and the fastest horse all over the world. This horse was grey and had eight legs. His name was Sleipnir. Odin also owned a robe that was made of eagle and he could fly thanks to this robe. Odin had healing powers and he was invulnerable. He got his invulnerability when he passed away and was resurrected again because he had sacrificed himself. Odin had trained some humans to be wizards and sent them to the world. *Wednesday is named after Woden, the English form of Odin.* Nevertheless Odin was also founder of the Dark

⁵⁰ [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wizard_\(fantasy\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wizard_(fantasy))

magic. He was incredibly cruel; he even killed his two brothers. Odin was animagus and he forfeited his eye to gain more knowledge. Odin was the God of War and he owned a magic ring which replicated itself every nine days.

In Rowling's stories there are four wizards and witches who decided to train young children who had a gift of magic. Godric Griffindor, Helga Hufflepuff, Rowena Ravenclaw and Salazar Slytherin founded Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. The school houses are named after them. Children were accepted according to their talent, but Slytherin was against accepting muggles and he left the school. Young wizards and witches study many magic branches such as potions, charms, transfiguration, astronomy or history of magic.

2.8.2.1.1 The conflict between Love and Death

Rowling shows us one large conflict – conflict between death and love. The whole story starts with the death of Harry's parents. Harry miraculously survives. It was because the love of his mother. Dumbledore explains to Harry in the *Philosopher's Stone*: "*Your mother died to save you. If there is one thing Voldemort cannot understand, it is love. He didn't realize that love as powerful as your mother's for you leaves its own mark. Not a scar, no visible sign ... to have been loved so deeply, even though the person who loved us is gone, will give us some protection forever.*"⁵¹ Thanks to Lily Potter's love Harry could defeat Voldemort. Harry sacrificed his own life for his friends, for his beloved Ginny, for everyone who passed away during the war with Voldemort, and it was the power of love which protected his friends against Death Eaters' curses during the Battle of Hogwarts. The topic of Death is most frequent in the last book. The first important idea is situated on the gravestone of Harry's parents - "*the last enemy that shall be destroyed is death*"⁵² – this idea is associated to Voldemort and his effort to defeat the Death. He is so scared of death that he invented horcruxes. The second important idea is hidden in the *Tale of the Three Brothers* and the legend of the Deathly Hallows. Voldemort desired for the Elder wand, but at the end of the story we recognize that the most powerful Hallow was the Cloak of Invisibility. Dumbledore explained Harry that death is not the end, it is something irreversible, there is nothing that can bring the dead back to the world, even if there is the Resurrection Stone (Dumbledore longed for this stone) but the dead who were resurrected by this stone are desperate from living because they know they are already dead and they cannot move on. He

⁵¹ ROWLING, *The Philosopher's Stone*, 2010, p. 216

⁵² ROWLING, *The Deathly Hallows*, 2010, p. 268

describes death as: “*To the well-organized mind, death is but the next great adventure.*”⁵³ (*Philosopher’s stone*). This idea is represent by the youngest brother from the *Tale of the Three Brothers*. Ignotus Peverell owned the Cloak of Invisibility and when his time has come, he gave his cloak to his eldest son. “*And then he greeted Death as an old friend, and went with him gladly, and, equals, they departed this life.*”⁵⁴. Harry goes to meet his fate and death with courage and he is aware of the fact that death is not the end. He practically welcomes the Death the same way as Ignotus Peverell. And he passes away with love to his friends.

2.8.2.2 Finnish mythology

Another wizard called Väinämöien appears in the Kalevala, the most important historical works of Finnish literature. He was neither God nor human but son of Ilmatar – the virgin spirit of the air. Väinämöien mastered runes perfectly and thanks to this knowledge he could open caves. He was also healer and as well as Odin Väinämöien sacrificed himself, was resurrected and gained more wisdom. Väinämöien was great in charms and he fought against the dark magic.

In the Kalevala there are some black warlocks who came from Lapland. They symbolized daemons.

2.8.2.3 British legends

Irish and Welsh wizards could change themselves into animals. They owned invisible coats and protected themselves by protective charms.

There was one special group of wizards. They were called Druids. Druids were mentors of Kings and they had magical and divinatory powers. Druids were real humans but very little is known about them because they did not write down their teachings. We know that Druids were not only men but also women. They studied many branches of knowing such as astronomy, psychology, philosophy or laws. As full-blown druids they were highly respected in political and social events. There was a hierarchical system which was lead by the main Druid. Inside the system there were many groups of specialized druids: fortune-tellers who cared of ceremonials and communicated between the live and the dead, healers, teachers or astronomers. They often worked as justice. First Christian apostles had accepted Druids well, but later Druids were connected with daemons and the Devil.

⁵³ ROWLING, *The Philosopher’s Stone*, 2010, p. 215

⁵⁴ ROWLING, *The Tales of Beedle the Bard*, p. 93

In HP series an animagus is a wizard or witch who can turn into animal. It is a special kind of transfiguration. These wizards keep their human intelligence as opposed to werewolves which are control only by their instincts.

The hierarchy still exists among wizards and witches, but now is more specialized. It is obvious on hierarchy of the Ministry of Magic. Some pure-blood wizards and witches prefer themselves to wizards and witches who were born to muggles.

2.8.2.3.1 Merlin

Geoffrey de Monmouth wrote a tale about Welsh wizard Merlin in 1136. Monmouth joined the God Myrrdina and the fortune-teller Ambrosius into one person – Merlin. Merlin was son of a princess and a fallen angel. He was chosen as a sacrifice but he impressed people by his prophetic powers by discovering of dragons in dungeons. Merlin then worked as king's advisor and he brought up King Arthur.

There can be seen the parallel between Merlin and King Arthur and Dumbledore and Harry Potter. Dumbledore appears as Harry advisor, and even if it seems that Harry decides on his own, almost all the steps are carefully planned by Dumbledore in advance. Harry is often unaware of what he is doing but he is slowly led by Dumbledore to the goal of his predestination. Severus Snape also worked as Harry's guardian.

2.8.2.4 Greek mythology

In Greek mythology there are two famous witches – Circe and Medea. Circe was excellent in transfiguration and she had much knowledge of herbs. Circe used a wand and potions for witchcraft. Medea was niece of Circe.

Students of Hogwarts need use wands for practising magic, especially during transfiguration and charms lessons.

2.8.3 Traditions of the Near East

Witchcraft was strictly forbidden in the Ancient Near East, especially in Mesopotamia where only priest-magic was allowed. Other forms of magic were punished by the death penalty.

The Jews were against witchcraft too. Some verses of the Old Testament inspired medieval Christians and Christians of Early Modern Ages to witch-hunting – Deuteronomy 18:10-12 *There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch. Or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or*

*a wizard, or a necromancer. For all that do these things are an abomination unto the Lord: and because of these abominations the Lord thy God doth drive them out from before thee.*⁵⁵ Or Exodus 22:18 *Thou shalt not suffer a witch to live.*⁵⁶

Muslims also forbade the practise of magic.

The death penalty for witchcraft still exists in Saudi Arabia, India and Indonesia. The last known execution happened in February 2013 in Papua New Guinea.⁵⁷

It is evident that witch-hunting originated from this area. It is interesting that only witchcraft was forbidden and in almost all cases women are guilty, not men.

2.8.4 Asian tradition

Foxes or snakes are animals bred by Japanese witches. Fox is the most common type of animal guides in Japanese tales.

Witches called Wu come from China and they drove bad spirits and illnesses out of humans' houses.

Hogwarts students also breed their magic pets; cats, owls and frogs are the most common, but some students breed less common or rare pets such as kneazels, crups, puffskeins or their smaller variety Pygmy Puffs.

2.8.5 African Tradition

In Africa there are three groups of witches. The first one - The thakathi – is classified as evil witch who harms the other. The second one is called The sangoma and this witch is a fortune-teller. The last group consists of The inyangas who work as healers. The thakathis and the sangomas are women, the inyangas are men.

2.8.6 Christian Period

Witchcraft was in straight contradiction with Christianity. It was vitally important to get rid of something as pagan as witchcraft was. *Malleus maleficarum* was probably the most important book dealing with witchcraft in the Middle ages and the Early Modern period. It was published in French Strasbourg in 1486 and was written by Jakob Sprenger and Heinrich Kramer (but they appeared as writers in 1519). A papa bull called *Summis desiderantes affectibus* (first published in 1484) came out together with

⁵⁵ <http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/book.php?book=Deuteronomy&chapter=18&verse=10>

⁵⁶ <http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/book.php?book=Exodus&chapter=22&verse=18>

⁵⁷ <http://news.sky.com/story/1049348/papua-new-guinea-witch-burned-alive-by-mob>

Malleus maleficarum as its part. This book was divided into three parts. The first part deals with witchcraft, its origin, and the founder of witchcraft who was called Zoroaster. The second part is about ways of protecting against witchcraft and how to eliminate it. The third part refers to investigation of witchcraft and the various ways of torturing. This book belonged to many factors which led to hunting of witches. The last known witch-trial in Europe was in Poland in 1783 (the last execution for witchcraft in England happened in 1628).

Christian period and witch-hunting had to be very difficult time but most for women. The reasons for witch-hunting are not clear but it could be caused by tension between Catholics and Protestants – decline of the church and Christian religion, wars, but the most used reason was that women were accused of bad harvest (there was a short period in the 16th century where the climate was extremely cold and the harvest of this century was very poor). People were under pressure of church that preach Apocalypse and the return of Jesus Christ.

Witch-hunting ended in Europe at the end of the 18th century.

There is a question why women were predominantly accused of witchcraft. It could be believed that women are responsible for expulsion from Paradise. Woman is sometimes connected with the Devil in the Bible and this could be another reason.

There are many themes that Rowling used for her world of magic and for Wizards and Witches. Let us compare some of them with a few Wizards of Harry Potter stories and the mythological ones.

Dumbledore holds the function of the old wise man and also he is Harry's mentor. As a young wizard he was interested in the Dark magic, but when his youngest sister passed away (close experience with the Death) he started to fight against it. He bred the phoenix as his pet. Dumbledore could make himself invisible without using the Invisibility cloak.

Voldemort was born into the unequal family; his mother was from the Slytherin's lineage but his father was a muggle. Voldemort had longed for power and immortality therefore he created horcruxes. Unfortunately he made one horcrux from Harry when he had tried to kill him and his curse turned against him and Voldemort almost died (only almost, because of the existence of horcruxes – another experience with the death). Thanks to horcruxes Voldemort got his immortality.

Harry has got the most experience with the death because he survived the unforgivable curse Avada Kedavra twice. For the second time he sacrificed himself for his friends,

because he knew he is the horcrux. He could survive only because of his sacrifice. Harry inherited the Invisibility Cloak from his father. This cloak is handed in Potter family for many generations; the first owner of this cloak was Ignotus Peverell. Severus Snape is the one of the characters that goes through the most noticeable change. When he was a child he was the closest friend of Lily Evans, but when they started to study at Hogwarts, their ways led them in the opposite direction. After finishing school Severus had followed lord Voldemort, but when he found out that Voldemort wanted to kill his beloved Lily, Severus left his dark master and joined Dumbledore. Then he became a teacher of potions at Hogwarts. Many students, as well as Harry, did not like him. He even helped Dumbledore with his plan of gaining the elder wand despite the fact that Severus refused to kill Dumbledore. But he could not defy Dumbledore and he did his will. After this he left Hogwarts and joined the Death Eaters and Voldemort. Severus stayed loyal to Dumbledore until his death. His death can be described this way: *“To show that you can always change your ways. Always.”*⁵⁸

The meaning of all the deaths in HP:

James and Lily: To establish the story line as well as to show orphans of war.

Cedric Diggory: To show Voldemort's mercilessness.

Sirius Black: To show Harry's lack of guidance/parental figures.

Albus Dumbledore: To show the death of a great leader can't stop a war.

Hedwig: To show the end of Harry's childhood.

Mad Eye: To show the death of a soldier.

Dobby: To show even the smallest of creatures can die a Hero's death.

Fred Weasley: To show that some deaths you just can't get over. And that's okay.

Tonks and Remus Lupin: To reestablish orphans of war.

*Colin Creevey: To show that the good die young, even when they aren't supposed to.*⁵⁹

2.8.7 Fairytale Wizard

The theme of wizards and witches in fairy tales is pretty frequent in all parts of the world.

English fairy tale *The Old Witch* depicts the witch as an old, ugly and cruel creature.

⁵⁸ <http://potterchallenge.tumblr.com/post/23379185582/the-meaning-of-all-the-deaths-in-hp>

⁵⁹ <http://potterchallenge.tumblr.com/post/23379185582/the-meaning-of-all-the-deaths-in-hp>

The similar description of the witch occurs in the fairy tale of *Hanzel and Gretel* by brothers Grimm. The witch is ugly, old woman which indulges in cannibalism. She imprisoned Hanzel and she tried fattening him up whilst Gretel had to take care of the cottage. Hanzel outsmarted the witch and he pushed her to the oven.

Fitcher's Bride belongs to really cruel fairy tales of the brothers Grimm. One wizard changed his appearance to an old poor man and he captured beautiful girls. One day he kidnapped the oldest one of the three sisters. He gave her instructions what to do in his house but she did not obey him and he killed her. The same he did with her younger sister. The youngest sister saved her older sisters and sent them back home for help. The wizard was about to marry the youngest sister but she set a trap for the wizard. She prepared the skeleton as a bride and she disguised herself as a fitcher bird and ran away. When the wizard and his companions waited at his house the girl's brothers locked all the windows and doors up and set the house on fire.

The fairy tale of *The Wizard's Apprentice* is well known in Central Europe. There are only slight differences among countries but the plot stayed unaltered. The wizard hired young poor boy as a servant. But the boy found out that his master was wizard and he started to study the sorcerer's magic. When the wizard discovered that the boy studied his magic he got angry and he tried to kill him. The boy ran out and hid at princess. At the final battle the boy defeated the wizard.

The Sorcerer of the White Lotus Lodge is a Chinese fairy tale. The mighty sorcerer had a lot of apprentice who wanted to be as mighty as he was. He gave his learners two tasks but they all failed. One apprentice insulted the sorcerer and the sorcerer transformed him into the pig. When the boy's father found out what happened to his son and he seized the wizard and his family. During the way to the capital they met a giant, the mountain spirit. Sorcerer persuaded soldiers that his wife could stop the creature. But the giant swallowed the woman. The same the giant did with sorcerer's son. Finally the sorcerer fought with the giant but the giant swallowed the sorcerer as well and went away. Soldier realized that they were tricked and the giant, the spirit of mountain, was only the optical illusion, however it was too late.

There is a mention in the story that the sorcerer can make himself invisible.

A magician in a fairy tale from Africa called *The Magician and the Sultan's Son* offered to the Sultan that he would teach his son. As a reward he demanded one of Sultans son. One day the chosen son, Keejaanaa, found at magician's house a horse which could speak. The horse revealed the son that the magician was a cruel cannibal who ate everything. They decided to escape. Keejaanaa pushed the magician in the pot of boiling butter and ran away.

Strong Desire and the Red Sorcerer belongs to the Native American fairy tales. Red Sorcerer was the most powerful wizard upon the island, but he was the most terrific. Strong Desire was a young boy. An old woman advised him the way of defeating him. The canoe of Red sorcerer was made of living rattlesnakes. The sorcerer could speak with these snakes. Red Sorcerer loved massacres, he had killed more than hundreds men. Strong Desire chopped the Red Sorcerer's head off and arrived home.

J.R.R. Tolkien worked with wizards as well. He named his wizards as "Istaris". They are comprehended as spiritual creatures, not as wizards. Tolkien did not have a positive attitude to wizardry because he was a Christian. His Spiritual creatures were created by Gods and they could treat magic. They were made to help human beings because Istaris were more similar to Christian angels than genuine wizards.

Many stories depict a wizard really negatively. It is easy to understand why wizards are very bad and evil in Europe and North America, because both continents are strongly influenced by Christianity, however Asian and African tradition describes wizards in negative aspect as well. The question is why Rowling's witches and wizards act bad as well as good. Modern society is really interest in witchcraft and wizardry. Thus many people believe in White and Black Magic. This fact could inspire Rowling to write about magic in a positive way.

3 CONCLUSION

I would like to make the last summary of each chosen creature with their mythological and fairy tales' draft. It is significant for better general knowledge of given problems.

The analysis of dragon from mythological and fairytale point of view shows that Rowling was probably strongly inspired by European medieval interpretation. Her dragons are large wild four-legged and winged beasts of which bodies are covered by massive scales of various colours. Their teeth contain powerful venom and their paws are protected by sharp claws. Many of Rowling's dragons spew out fire and there are some slight hints that they tend to collect and protect treasures. None of these dragons have more than one head which is more common for the fairytales of Western Europe.

The Basilisk is another creature where Rowling used conventional European depiction. She portrays Basilisk as a king of snakes. This characterization is common in Europe. Even the motif of breeding of the basilisk use very similar scheme. She used the theme of using the mirror as well. This theme appears in Percy Jackson series too. The duel of two noble creatures, the basilisk and the phoenix, which can symbolize the fight of the good and the evil, is also obvious theme. The way of killing the basilisk in Harry Potter series is probably inspired by oriental tradition more than European tradition.

In the case of phoenix, Rowling based her creature on the Afro-European tradition. It is obvious, that she worked the most with these sources. Her Phoenix is very similar to Egyptian bird Bunu. Even other depictions of phoenixes among European cultures show very close association with the African tradition. European phoenixes, as well as Rowling's one, possess the one special ability, their tears have healing powers. Rowling might have been inspired by Chinese tradition in the nobility of phoenix.

The creature of the unicorn is quite problematic. Rowling's unicorn is in concordance with fairytale depiction of fast white horses with a horn which follow only virgins. However it is in contradiction to mythological interpretation. The only one sameness is in the unicorn appearance as a white horse with a horn on its forehead. Rowling's unicorn is more similar to Christian interpretation. The unicorn is meant as a symbol of Jesus, the symbol of purity, love and peace, and these same attributes occur at Rowling's characterization of the unicorn.

Rowling's merpeople can be integrated into the group of creatures where Rowling was inspired by Afro-European depiction. Her merpeople are tall, live under water and they have a fishtail instead of legs. However many legends and fairytales relates only of mermaids and merwomen. Colours are very important for this creature, it depends on the country and colours are various. Almost all mermaids and merpeople love music and the live in communities.

The characterization of the werewolf in Harry Potter series is typical representative of the European and the Northern American depiction in legends and fairytales. Rowling includes two types of werewolves, the good ones and the bad ones. Two werewolves' names, Remus and Fenrir, come from legends which deal with wolves. Both represent the good and the bad side. Rowling also mentions the influence and importance of the Moon, and she points out the healing of lycanthropy.

Giants of Harry Potter series possess the same personality traits as classic mythical and fairy tales' European Giants. All of them are extremely cruel and violent. They are very stupid and many of them guard their treasures. They often live in caves and their ability to speak is not good. Rowling's half-giant Hagrid and full-giant Grawp are, contrary to their kinsmen, kind and warm-hearted. This attribute is common for American folktales of Giants and Rowling might use it as well.

It is obvious that Rowling was inspired by the mythological Western European tradition, especially Scandinavian, British and German, when she created her types of witches and wizards. Her wizards and witches attend school. This theme is found in Scandinavian legends as well as the wizards' ability to switch into animals. This ability was used by British and Irish wizards too. The Legend of Merlin probably inspired Rowling in her Harry, Snape and Dumbledore's characters. The use of wands may come from Greek legends. The breeding of animals by witches and wizards is common in Europe and in Japan.

Now, it is clear that Rowling was mostly inspired by European depiction and tradition. Her supernatural creatures carry many traditional European attributes however there are some traits from other parts of the world such as kind American giants or Egyptian depiction of the phoenix. Nevertheless her creatures are elaborated to the smallest detail.

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